PEREZ: New controversy

5 Abu Sayyaf bandits killed in 2 clashes

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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'Pot-pot' boys sell pan de soul

By Mozart Pastrano
Contributor

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"POT-POT!"

At the crack of dawn today, several residential areas in Makati City will wake up to a familiar sound from a bygone era:

POT-POT/A18

Swiss gov't probes $2-M Nani account

No basis for inquiry, says former justice secretary

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business
and Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE SWISS government is investigating former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for allegedly laundering $2 million in a Swiss bank account, according to two Cabinet officials.

When contacted, Perez denied involvement in any money laundering activities.

Money laundering is the process of disguising illegal sources of funds derived from criminal activities like corruption, smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, illegal gambling and computer fraud schemes.

The two Cabinet officials said Swiss authorities had formally sought the assistance of the Philippine government in providing information on Perez, his wife Rosario, brother-in-law Ramon Arceo and associates like investment banker Ernest L. Escaler.

Arceo is a former director of the United Coconut Planters' Bank and executive vice president of PCIBank, while Escaler is a former consultant of Coutts Bank for the Philippines.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Arceo and Escaler but they could not be reached. Perez said he did know where to find Arceo, who usually stays in the former justice secretary's house when in Batangas during weekends.

A letter from the Swiss government was sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Anti-Money Laundering Council last month, according to the Cabinet officials.

An official, who saw the letter, said Perez's $2-million deposit was treated as a "suspicious account" in Switzerland, a member of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which consists mainly of developed countries that serves as the global policeman against money laundering.

This means the Swiss government suspects Perez of money laundering, a crime that rich economies would like to flush out as it involves the flow of some $600 billion to $1.5 trillion in illegally ac-

SWISS/A19

TORN TAPESTRY
Farmers in Cauayan, Isabela, restore the tapestry of rice fields destroyed by Typhoon "Harurot" during an aerial inspection conducted by President Macapagal last Thursday.
EDWIN BACASMAS

3 officers to testify on Gringo role, blood ritual

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE more military officers are set to testify about Sen. Gregorio Honasan's alleged involvement in the planning of the July 27 mutiny.

The three witnesses were present when the opposition senator and ex-coup plotter allegedly presided over a late-night blood ritual last June 4 in a house in San Juan town, military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay said yesterday.

"Their testimonies are crucial and we will present them in due time," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In Congress, a member of the House committee on national defense said leaders of the mutiny would be grilled on two questions when the panel resumes its hearings this week. Who are the three congressmen who allegedly supported the July 27 mutiny? And who ordered junior military officers to bomb Muslim mosques in Davao City?

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said talk of the alleged involvement of at least three members of the House had been floating around for a time.

"This is a serious allegation and we have to get to the bottom of it," Nograles said. "Such talk is impugning the integrity of the House as an institution."

Meanwhile, lawyer Argee Guevarra, counsel for the mutineers, accused military officials of trying to isolate Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and company from their lawyers. A "communication center," he claimed, was being constructed inside his clients' detention center in Camp Aguinaldo.

3 OFFICERS/A20

How Ninoy got valid passport

By Norman Bordadora

THE FOREIGN service officer who gave Ninoy Aquino his last valid passport 20 years ago did so on orders of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Jose Ampeso, now 53 years old and charge d'affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi, said that when ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., a fellow member of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity, asked him for new travel papers, word was coursed to Marcos who reportedly gave the following instructions: Give him whatever he needs.

Aquino, the opposition leader whose assassination eventually led to the overthrow of the Marcos regime, famously used a fake passport in the name of Marcial Bonifacio to return to the country on Aug. 21, 1983. But he used the valid passport from Ampeso to jump his US exile and travel to Russia, France, Egypt and Malaysia in the last two months of his life.

"It was in March 1983, when he

HOW/A18

Honasan lawyer sues for more time

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE LAWYER of Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan will ask the Department of Justice to give the senator more time to prepare his "pleadings" on the coup charges filed against him by the government. Today is the deadline for Honasan to answer the charges.

Lawyer Daniel Gutierrez said he would ask the DOJ today to extend the deadline because the department served the complaint against the senator with all the necessary documents only on Aug. 14.

The DOJ served the subpoena on Aug. 8 at the office of Honasan in the Senate, giving him until today to submit his reply to the charges that he plotted with the soldiers who seized the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati City on July 27 to overthrow the government.

Last week, Gutierrez said the subpoena was improperly served. The document stated that it must be served at Honasan's residence.

The complaint also had missing documents, making it impossible for Honasan's legal defense team to answer the charges properly, he said.

Gutierrez told the INQUIRER yesterday that the DOJ served another subpoena on Thursday, this time at the residence of Honasan in Marikina City. All the necessary documents were also attached to the complaint.

"So we're counting the 10-day period to have started only last Thursday," he said. "We have on or before the 25th of August to submit the appropriate pleadings."

Gutierrez said he would ask the DOJ today whether it could file the case

HONASAN/A20

Mutiny ended with surrender document

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE CHARGES laid against the 321 soldiers who were accused by the government of staging a coup d'etat have stirred up a controversy over whether these breached the agreement that led them to end the July 27 siege of Oakwood Premier apartment complex.

The renegade officers claimed that the five-point agreement they signed with the government's negotiator, Ambassador Roy Cimatu, did not specify the venue where the charges would be filed—whether in a civilian court or a court-martial.

The coup leaders claimed that while they agreed to "face the consequences" of their action, they understood that they would be charged under the Articles of War and tried by a military tribunal—which was what they wanted. The controversy arose from the ambiguity over the venue of the cases. There is no dispute over the commitment of the officers to "face the consequences."

According to the government, there was never any discussion during the negotiations after the 5 p.m. deadline set by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the rebels to surrender on whether they would be tried in a civilian court or in a court-martial.

The government argues that the filing of the cases in civil courts for the crime of coup d'etat under the Revised Penal Code "is one of the consequences of the actions" taken by the officers and their men.

This side issue over the agreement should not be allowed to distract us from the more important issue of the right of

MUTINY/A20

Meeting of reporter, plotters probed

**By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Christine Avendaño**

CONTRARY to official statements from both Malacañang and the GMA 7 network, the government will in fact investigate TV reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez, not for interviewing opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, but for meeting with other alleged plotters and aides of Honasan two weeks after the failed coup.

In a phone interview, President Macapagal-Arroyo's special projects chief, Marita "Mai-Mai" Jimenez, told the INQUIRER that government intelligence officials wanted to find out why Perez was in that "situation" and determine whether this had anything to do with the coup plot. "I think she should explain thoroughly why she was there," Jimenez said.

Jimenez said it was this "situation" and not Perez's interview with Honasan (which was broadcast on Aug. 12 or a day after the state of rebellion was lifted) that prompted the President to speak to the reporter and say her actions could be construed as "abetting rebellion."

Press Secretary Milton Alingod said it

MEETING/A17

SUSPECTED coup mastermind Sen. Gregorio Honasan and GMA 7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez are shown in this TV grab.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/08/18/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Partly cloudy

Military kills 5 Abus in 2 clashes

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Five Abu Sayyaf gunmen died in separate clashes in Western Mindanao over the weekend, the military's Southern Command reported yesterday.

The first clash occurred here late Friday evening when at least five heavily armed bandits led by one commander Ustadz Abdullah fired on a fishing boat being escorted by elements of the 36th Special Forces Company and the 35th Special Forces Company off Seremon Island in Barangay Cutuan.

Soldiers have been escorting fishing boats to thwart high-sea piracy since boat owners have been complaining that the Abu Sayyaf were coercing them into giving protection money.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said Abdullah and three of his men died and fell into the sea after the clash that lasted about 10 minutes. Their bodies were not found.

"The area is about 40 fathoms deep," Kyamko explained. "But we recovered one M-14 rifle and the group's pump boat."

Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the military earlier received reports that the small but violent Muslim extremist group was planning more attacks on vessels in the area.

Kyamko said the fifth bandit was slain during an encounter in Maimbung, Sulu on Saturday afternoon.

Troops from the 53rd Infantry Battalion were on patrol when they clashed with an undetermined number of bandits, he said. "There was a two-minute firefight and no casualties were reported on our soldiers. The Abu Sayyaf suffered one casualty and we recovered one Garand rifle."

A bandit who surrendered after the clash was being interrogated at a military base in Sulu, Kyamko said.

In yet another incident on Saturday, the Southcom chief reported, elements of the 10th Marine Battalion Landing Team 10 captured a suspected Abu Sayyaf member in Patikul, Sulu. He said Talib Habibula, 34, a native of Barangay Martinez in Jolo, was delivering medicines when soldiers caught up with him in Barangay Liang.

Col. Nelson Allaga, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, said Habibula's backpack contained assorted pain relievers, antibiotics and anti-diarrhea pills.

"Some of their members are either wounded or sick," Kyamko concluded.

The Abu Sayyaf last year seized four Indonesian seamen after boarding their vessel near the southern island of Basilan. The victims were taken to the nearby island of Jolo, where three of them were killed. The fourth escaped.

Tagged as terrorists by both the Philippine and United States governments, the militants are also wanted for the murders of two American hostages seized in 2001, and for a spate of bombings and attacks.

The group's activities have waned considerably since a US-backed military offensive drove them last year from their main jungle bases on nearby Basilan island.

A few hundred remain here as well as on Jolo island and Basilan, where American troops continue combat and counter-terrorism training for local counterparts. *With reports from AFP and AP*

Army reviews case of Lamitan officer

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The Army separation board is reviewing the case of an Army commander accused of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf at the height of the military siege on a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan on June 2, 2001.

A military source yesterday confirmed that the investigation of the alleged "operational lapses" by Col. Juvenal Narcise, then acting commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade, reached the board recently.

The Army's efficiency separation board reviews cases of military officials and personnel recommended for separation from the service, the source said.

Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya, briefly mentioned the progress of the case in last Thursday's Senate hearing on the July 27 failed Oakwood mutiny.

Narcise, now commander of the 702nd IB based in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, said he was "not yet informed" that his case was with the board.

The source, however, declined to say if the Army board had a strong evidence that would warrant Narcise's dismissal.

Aside from Narcise, four other officers, including a general, were accused of conspiring with the Abu Sayyaf bandits to allow them to escape from the Jose Ma. Torres Hospital compound in Lamitan through a back gate.

It was not known, however, if their cases had reached the Army separation board.

The other officers accused were Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, then commander of the 1st Infantry Division, the Army division in charge of operations in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; Captains Hubert Acierto and Nicolas Quemado, both aides of Narcise, and Maj. Eliseo Campued, executive officer of the 18th Infantry Battalion.

But Dominquez, who has been promoted to major general, told the INQUIRER that he had been cleared of the charges. "But I have yet to see the document. AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, I heard, is preparing a press statement." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Corpus, Lacson still at it

FORMER military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus yesterday dared Sen. Panfilo Lacson to make good on his threat to expose the former's alleged involvement in anomalies in government.

In a phone interview, Corpus said Lacson had made the threat after three Senate committees moved for a plenary vote on their report recommending that the senator be further investigated for his alleged involvement in kidnap-for-ransom, drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

The Senate had deferred the vote on the report.

Corpus said Lacson's planned expose may have something to do with his allegedly taking orders from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Corpus said that Lacson's allegations would be better made outside the halls of Congress and in a court of law.

"He should not hide under his immunity to vilify me," said the general who used to head one of the agencies that had worked to gather evidence against Lacson.

Lacson is expected to deliver a privileged speech today but sources in his camp said it would deal with the corruption in government. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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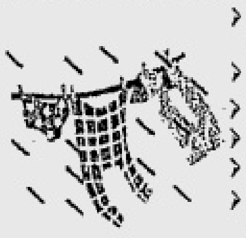

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1. Who is the Fil-Am actor who visited Manila for the 5th Cinemanila Int'l. Film Festival?
a. Lou Diamond Philips
b. Rob Schneider
c. Collin Farrell
d. Luke Wilson
2. Efren "Bata" Reyes is a popular player of what sport?
a. basketball
b. swimming
c. billiards
d. bowling
3. What is the boiling point of water?
a. 98 C
b. 212 C
c. 100 C
d. 0 C
4. 2003 is the year of the...
a. fish
b. monkey
c. pig
d. dragon
5. This is the most widely used operating system in the world
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b. Oracle
c. Word Star
d. Windows

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Aquinos to refuse share of Marcos loot

By Carlito Pablo

THE MOST prominent victims of martial law will not partake of any compensation that may come the way of the victims of the regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (LP, Tarlac), citing his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, said the family would waive whatever compensation they may be entitled to under a bill pending in Congress that would grant P10 billion to the victims of human rights abuses under Marcos.

"We may be the most well-known among the victims but we are not the worst off. *Itulong na lang natin sa iba* (Let's just help the others)," Aquino quoted his mother as saying.

Aquino's father, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was one of the first to be jailed by Marcos after the declaration of martial law in 1972. On Aug. 21, 1983, on his returning from exile in the United States, he was murdered on the runway of the Manila International Airport.

Instead of accepting his family's share of what would be just compensation, the younger Aquino has called for the preservation in a pending House bill of the proviso granting P10 billion to the victims of martial rule.

House Bill No. 4535, which is in its period of interpellation on the House floor, would indemnify only human rights victims during martial law.

Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan), chair of the committee on civil, political and human rights, had expressed openness to amending the bill to include victims of human rights abuses under post-Marcos governments.

Rosales had argued the 1987 Constitution itself mandates that all human rights victims, and not just the victims of Marcos, were entitled to compensation.

"Martial law was an aberration," Aquino said. "The bill must be preserved in its original version if true justice is to be rendered to victims during this dark period."

Aquino said the martial law period was unique in the sense that the "violation of human rights was part of a systematic state policy."

"By virtue of this whole-scale violation of human rights, the victims during this period are in a class by themselves," he said.

Aquino was apparently addressing Rosales' concern that a biased bill could be questioned in court as a piece of class legislation.

Aquino pointed out that although there were human rights violations after the ouster of Marcos, these were no longer part of government policy.

"That's why if you recall, right after Marcos, military and police personnel were saying *'baka ma*-human rights *tayo diyan'* (We might be accused of violating human rights) each time they conducted operations," Aquino said.

The P10 billion in compensation would come from the $683 million (roughly P38 billion) in Marcos funds the Supreme Court recently ordered forfeited in favor of the government.

The Marcos family, according to their lawyers, will contest the decision not only before the Philippine Supreme Court but all the way to the Swiss high court.

'Marcos wealth to reduce poverty by 70 percent'

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The $683-million (P38 billion) Marcos Swiss deposit that the Supreme Court has declared as ill-gotten could help reduce poverty by 70 percent, Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan said yesterday.

Pagdanganan said the amount, approved for turnover to the Philippine government, would benefit farmers. "Seven out of 10 Filipinos (living) below the poverty line belong to the agricultural sector," he noted.

The secretary spoke before 2,000 participants in the national leadership training for student government officers at Teachers' Camp. In his speech, he confirmed reports that the amount would go to the government's agrarian reform program.

Pagdanganan also said he was optimistic that prices of agricultural products, particularly rice, would become more stable because of new programs that would be financed by the confiscated money.

"Ang ninakaw sa bayan ay ibabalik sa bayan. Bawait piso magagamit at hindi dapat manakaw muli (What was stolen from the people will be returned to the people. We will not allow it to be stolen again. Every peso will be used)," Pagdanganan said.

On July 15, the Supreme Court awarded the frozen Swiss bank deposits to the Philippine government after ruling that the Marcos family "failed to justify the lawful nature of their acquisition."

Pagdanganan said his department would form a committee to monitor the disposition of the funds. Meanwhile, the money would be deposited to the Philippine National Bank and turned over to the national treasury, he said. The funds would be released once the General Appropriations Act approves its disbursement.

He said P30 billion would go to agrarian reform-related projects, including the construction of farm-to-market roads, agricultural facilities and land payment, as well as school buildings in remote villages.

For the more than 9,500 human rights victims who won a class suit in the District Court of Hawaii, Pagdanganan said P8 billion would be allotted for indemnification fees.

But Congress is still deliberating on House Bill 4535, which seeks a compensation fund of P10 billion.

Following the SC decision, the Samahan ng Ex-Detinado Laban sa Detensyon at Agresyon (Selda) is demanding the full and immediate indemnification of all victims of torture, forced disappearances, summary executions and other human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

Senate President Franklin Drilon is backing up DAR's projections. He urged President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to spend the retried Marcos money wisely by allocating P30 billion solely for agricultural development. *With Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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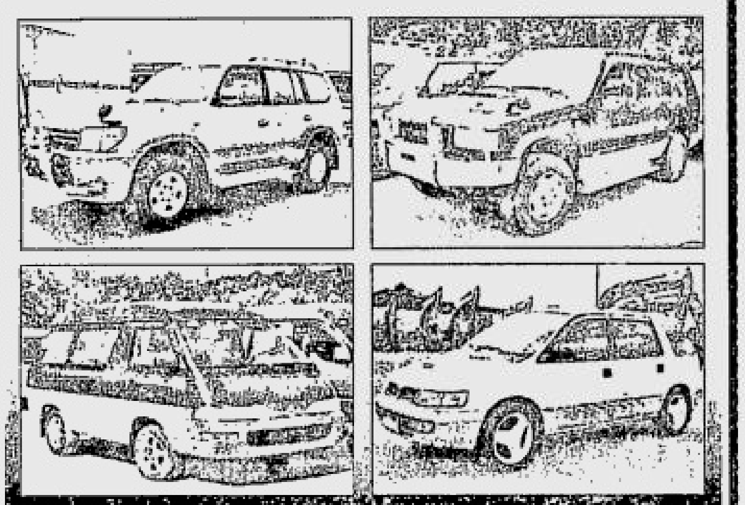
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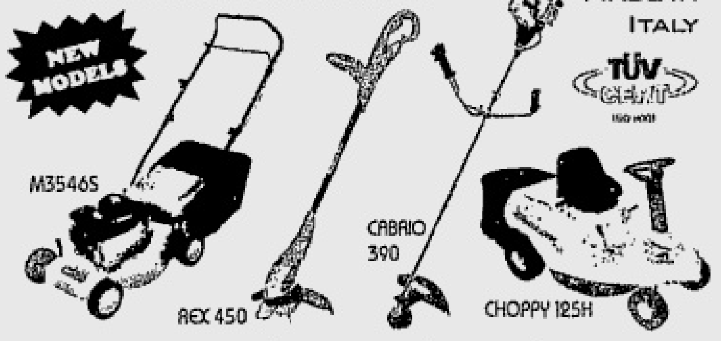

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Absentee voters scarce

TACLOBAN CITY—With a few weeks left for the absentee voter list-up and amid the low registrant turnout, Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos appealed to Filipinos living abroad to register at the nearest consular office.

Abalos said that of the 7.5 million Filipinos living abroad, the Comelec was looking at slightly less than half as possible voters.

He admitted, however, that if the low turnout continued, the target number of 3.5 million voters would not be achieved.

"But if this (low turnout) continues, we will be lucky if we can get one million (registrants). Over the last two weeks, only a little over 20,000 had registered," he told the INQUIRER Friday.

Absentee voting registration started on Aug. 1 and will end on Sept. 15.

Abalos said some of the reasons for the low turnout could be the high cost of registering and because it is time-consuming.

He said that for one to register, one has to personally appear before a consular office or embassy to fill up the form. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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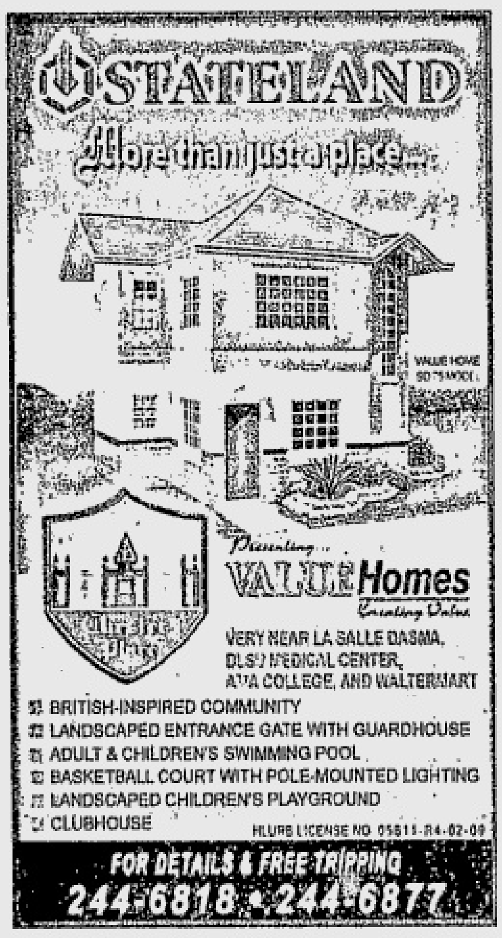
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De Venecia bats for wider Asian alliance against terrorism

By Carlito Pablo

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has proposed fusing together anti-terror alliances from Southeast Asia and Central Asia to better fight international terrorism.

De Venecia said the tri-nation anti-terrorist alliance of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia should be melded by a "cooperation agreement" with the so-called Shanghai Six led by China and Russia.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is composed of China, Russia and the Central Asian republics of Tajikistan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The expanded alliance would prevent the movement of remnants of the al-Qaida terrorist network from countries like Afghanistan to Southeast Asia.

CNN report

A recent report by CNN said the plan to attack the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001 had been hatched in Manila by al-Qaida operatives.

The Jemaah Islamiyah, said to be connected to al-Qaida, actively operates in Southeast Asia and has been blamed for such attacks as the deadly bombing in Bali, Indonesia, last October.

De Venecia in a statement said that his proposal would "further contain the spread of terrorism."

Previous reports said a number of Jemaah Islamiyah operatives had trained in camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

Manila meet

The issue of terrorism and ways to combat it are among the topics to be discussed in the general assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace to be hosted by Manila from Aug. 31 to Sept. 5.

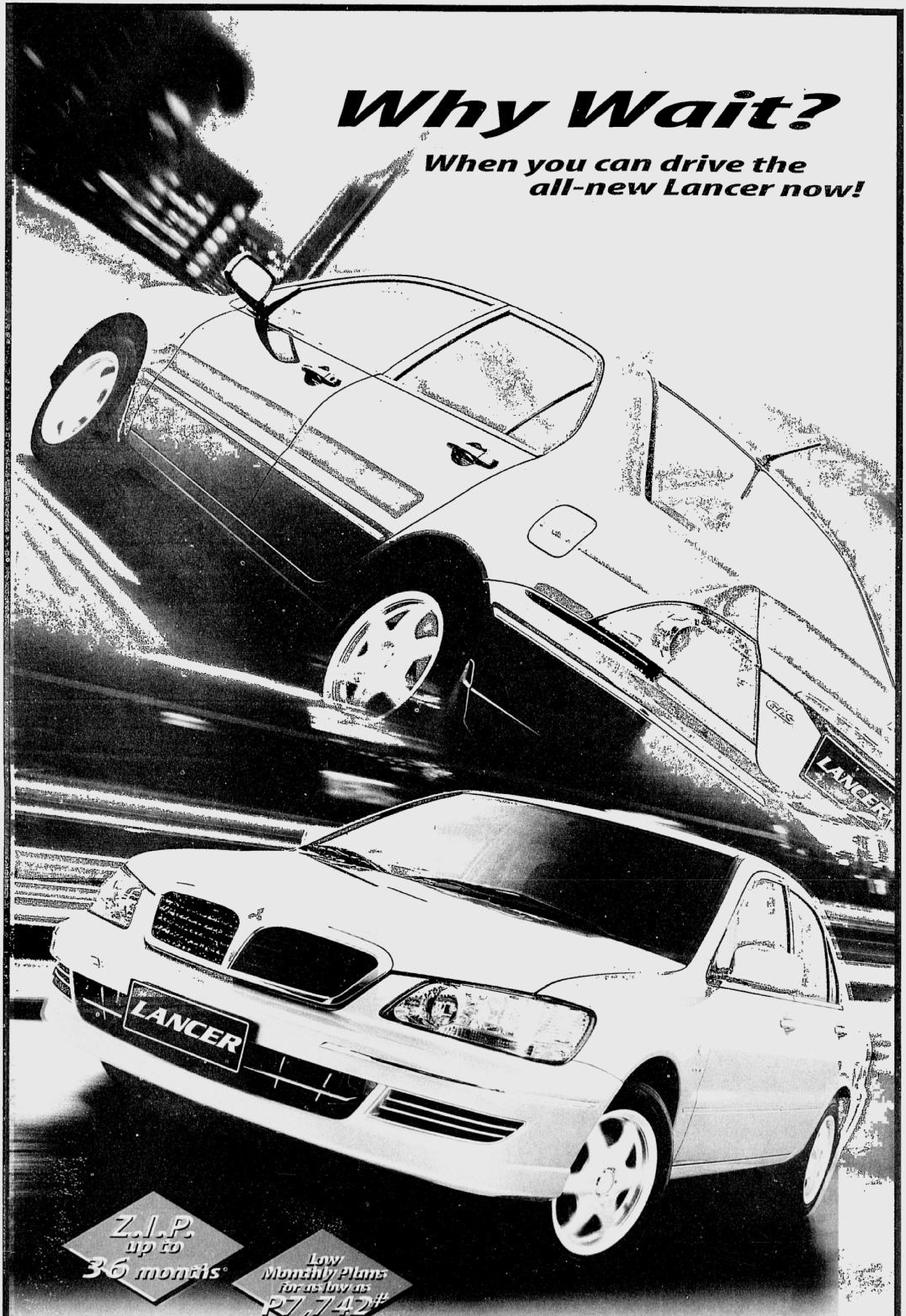
Asian parliamentarians last met in Beijing, China, where the association reiterated its "strong opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

De Venecia, who will assume the presidency of the AAPP during the Manila conference, said policymakers from Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and West Asia have confirmed their participation.

The theme of the 4th AAPP general assembly is "Toward a Hundred Years of Peace in Asia."

De Venecia said the conference will "push for peace and wider economic, social and political reforms."

He said Wu Bangguo, chair of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, will "lead the cast of eminent policymakers and statesmen" from most of the 37 AAPP member countries. Wu will also turn over the AAPP presidency to De Venecia.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Bush says 'tomato,' militants say 'kamatis'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

TOMATOES, not terrorist bombs, will greet US President George W. Bush when he visits Manila in October.

Militants yesterday said Bush should be prepared to dodge rotten tomatoes (*kamatis*) during giant street protests that would mark his visit, which is meant to return President Macapagal-Arroyo's call on him in Washington last May.

"If there is one thing the US government would want to avoid in the Philippines, it is the militant protest of the people, and not any terrorist group or individual," said Eleanor de Guzman, secretary general of the militant Anakbayan.

De Guzman was reacting to the US Embassy's confirmation of Bush's state visit to the Philippines on the side of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

The embassy said the visit had not been cancelled, contrary to speculation the escape of convicted Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi in Manila last month had scared off the American president.

De Guzman warned that Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo would be met by militant protesters "wherever Bush goes."

Anakbayan called the protests the "Bush Hunt in October."

De Guzman said Bush was "the picture of unjust wars and unequal agreements that have resulted in bloody deaths of civilians and the crumbling economy of the Third World."

"Bush deserves the strongest protest from peoples of the world, as he is responsible for the deaths and destruction in Iraq during the US war of aggression," De Guzman added.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople earlier said, "Substantive and administrative preparations for the visit of President Bush are in full swing." The Al-Ghozi escape did not affect plans for the visit, he added.

Bush accepted President Macapagal's invitation to visit the Philippines last May 19 during her own state visit to the United States. He had also confirmed his attendance at the Apec summit.

Last week, Thai police arrested the alleged regional terror leader, Hambali, who was believed to be plotting an attack on the Apec summit in Bangkok.

Hambali is suspected of masterminding the October 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, which left 202 people dead.

Village justice impresses US envoy

ROXAS CITY—The Barangay Justice Service System which covers the provinces comprising Panay Island has impressed US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

The BJSS, which aims to achieve the efficient administration of justice at the barangay level, was a new concept in 1997 when it was launched in Panay under the auspices of the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF), with funds from the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid).

Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo said Ricciardone came to the province to see how the BJSS was being implemented. The other provinces that comprise Panay are Aklan, Antique and Iloilo.

In a short talk following the project presentation at the GRF training center here Friday, Ricciardone said the Philippines, Capiz in particular, had a lot to offer and be proud of, including the barangay justice system.

The system was established after a series of seminars and workshops conducted by the GRF. Given emphasis in the seminars were values orientation, moral and spiritual issues, women and family concerns, child abuse and protection, and laws and issuances.

It is similar to the Katarungang Pambarangay (village justice) concept of the departments of justice, and interior and local government. *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Battered RAM

EDITORIAL

THE "FANTASTIC TALE" that ex-colleagues of Sen. Gregorio Honasan have retailed in public is a political inkblot test. What you see in it says more about you and your political convictions than about the stain on the page.

In the first part of the INQUIRER special report on the allegations by Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa officials that Honasan plotted to kill President Joseph Estrada at the height of the impeachment crisis in late 2000 and early 2001, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes says cryptically that reports of the plot were a factor in his historic decision to withdraw support, as Armed Forces chief of staff, from the Estrada administration. Interviewed on live television the day the story came out, however, Reyes hemmed and hawed until he had qualified his supposed knowledge of the alleged plot to insignificance.

Estrada, under detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on plunder charges, reached into his bag of ready phrases and fished out movie-industry metaphors. He laughed off the allegations, calling it a good script for a movie starring Reyes and RAM spokesperson Proceso Maligalig—in aid, he said, of their election ambitions.

In the Senate, opposition leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called the allegations a "fantastic tale" designed by an "unseen hand" to muddle the ongoing Senate inquiry into the July 27 mutiny and, worse, to drive a deep wedge into the widening cracks of a fragmented opposition. "So somebody is trying to exacerbate the fissures in the ranks of the opposition. It is an attempt to drive a wedge among our ranks," Pimentel said.

And administration stalwart Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. took the studiously nuanced view of Malacañang itself, when he called on Honasan to come out of hiding and answer the allegations. Otherwise, Magsaysay said, the allegations could "do damage" to Honasan's reputation.

Maligalig was not alone in making his sensational claim; he was joined by police Director Eduardo Matillano, retired Navy Commander Jaime Lucas, Cebu Customs Collector Billy Bibit, and police Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya—all of them Honasan's partners in previous coup attempts. In separate interviews with different media organizations, the RAMboys of old told the same tale: between October 2000 and January 2001, Honasan hatched the plan to assassinate Estrada; none agreed to join him.

It is possible that the alleged plot was disclosed at this time in order to complete the portrait of Honasan as an incorrigible coup plotter—and by implication as the mastermind of the failed coup attempt now known as the Oakwood mutiny. The all-too-deliberate statements of Reyes—just enough to independently confirm the existence of the plot, but vague enough to escape responsibility for following it up—give us pause.

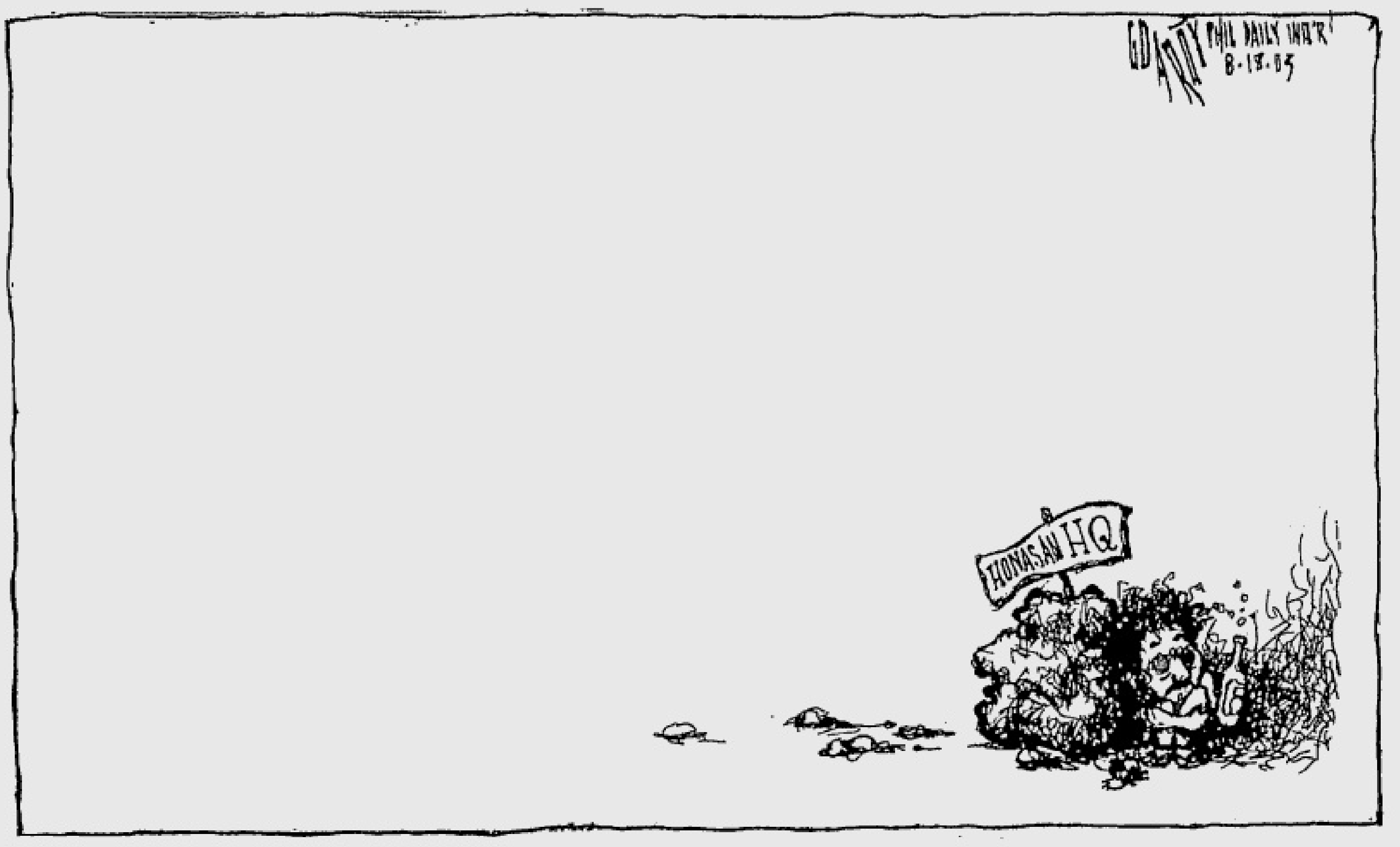
But it is also possible that an attack of conscience pushed Maligalig et al. to break their silence.

A well-timed disclosure as specific and at the same time as sweeping as that of the RAMboys gives rise to a surfeit of possibilities. This much we are certain of, however. Honasan, the leader of the original Reform the Armed Forces Movement, has been abandoned by his peers. In this back story lies a cautionary tale for the July 27 mutineers.

In the second part of the special report, other ex-colleagues of Honasan spoke up, including retired Commodore Rex Robles, undersecretary Abraham Purugganan, and Col. Danny Lim of the Scout Rangers. The three ex-RAMboys did not speak of the alleged plot; instead, they drew a bleak portrait of Honasan. Purugganan hit the characteristic note: "You know, Honasan failed on two counts as a leader. One, he failed to look into the welfare of his people. Second, he failed in the aspect of accomplishing the mission (that is, seizing power)."

He added: "He's a fake. He's out of the loop. He talked about country and people, but Honasan is for Honasan."

For the would-be saviors of the nation like Navy Lt. (sg.) Antonio Trillanes IV, who look up to Honasan like an older brother, these words may be harsh. But wrenched from experience as painful as the mutiny leaders' own time on the battlefield, they have the ring of truth.



How can ordinary citizens fight abusive solons?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

TWO young businessmen, Mark Anthony Purisima and Heinrich Suson, waited almost five years to get the deed of sale to a dilapidated apartment building in Sta. Cruz, Manila, foreclosed and sold to them at a public bidding by the Philippine Veterans Bank. The selling price of P7.1 million was paid in full in December 1998 but the PVB refused to sign an absolute deed of sale so the buyers could take possession of the building. Reason, a congressman, Rep. Harry Angping of Manila, had intervened and tried to pressure the bank to rescind the sale.

Angping claims he was merely protecting his constituents who were tenants in the apartment building. He wanted the bank to give his constituents the right of first refusal, he said. As vice chair of the House committee on veterans affairs, he filed a resolution to investigate the corporate acts of PVB, a common act of harassment.

The two businessmen filed a case against Angping with the ethics committee chaired by Rep. Antonio Abaya. They also filed a case with the Ombudsman against Angping. These were filed in 2001 but both cases have not moved an inch until now.

For their part, some tenants of the apartment building had filed in court on July 2, 1999, a petition seeking the nullification of the sale on the ground that, as tenants, they have the right of first refusal. The court rejected the petition, saying they have no such right.

Meanwhile, the two buyers had instituted ejectment proceedings against the tenants for non-payment of rent. The regional trial court ordered the ejectment. The tenants appealed to the Court of Appeals which affirmed the RTC decision. They went up to the Supreme Court, which also rejected their appeal. The decision is now final and executory.

Meanwhile, after almost five years, the PVB finally signed the absolute deed of sale in favor of Purisima and Suson, who now have the title to the property. Still, they could not take possession of it because the tenants refuse to leave. Last Aug. 13, the owners tried, for the nth time, to eject the "squatters" with the help of the sheriff and policemen. But Angping again intervened and persuaded the sheriff and policemen not to implement the ejectment order as he waited in the sala of Judge Zenaida R. Daguna, RTC Branch 19, for a temporary restraining order to stop the implementation of the writ of execution issued by the presiding judge of MTC Branch 15.

According to Purisima, when he accidentally met Angping some time ago, the latter told him: "It will take you another five years to take possession of that property."

Which shows how the extremely slow wheels of justice in the courts are being used by litigants to delay the administration of justice. And that congressmen, who make the laws, don't hesitate to use their power and influence to thwart, for selfish reasons, the enforcement of laws they themselves enacted. Imagine, the owners unable to take possession of their property for five years now just because one congressman is misusing his powers to abuse ordinary citizens.

Why is Angping doing this? Angping says he is only protecting his constituents. But for the other side, I can only quote the affidavits of Purisima and Suson in their complaints against Angping. According to them, "the congressman wanted to buy the property himself." They said that "Angping had learned that Henry Sy plans to build a new shopping mall within the nearby San Lazaro race track, which is expected to raise the value of the property." They said that the bank had told them that it would "return their money and sell the property that is rightfully ours to Congressman Angping. This was because the bank, just like any financial institution, feared a bank-run that would emanate from a scandal caused by a House investigation."

On June 21, 1999, Purisima's affidavit said, the chief operating officer and board secretary of PVB met with him and offered to return their payment with interest, "so the property can then be sold to no other than the Honorable Congressman" (Angping).

In his affidavit, Purisima also narrated that on Dec. 12, 2001, a lawyer relayed in a telephone conversation "the offer of Congressman Angping to buy the property from Purisima and his partner for P10 million." Purisima said he rejected the offer.

Angping denied he is interested in the property when I bumped into him at the Sulo Hotel coffee shop in February last year. He said if Purisima will only pay the 13 tenants P100,000 each, the case can be settled.

So, the whole affair looks like a shakedown, the same tactic and motivation that squatters use when asked to vacate government and private properties they are illegally occupying.

But the crux of the whole mess is how do ordinary citizens fight the abuses of their own officials when even the courts that are supposed to dispense justice become a party to the abuses. When even the orders of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals can be negated by the influence of a congressman on lower court judges, sheriffs and policemen. When members of Congress protect their own misbehaving colleagues, and when the Ombudsman, supposedly the prosecutor of the people, is rendered effete by abusive congressmen.

State of mind

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

BEFORE GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo berated Tina Panganiban-Perez last Friday, Antonio Trillanes told the story of how his meeting with the President last July 13 went. He had sought an appointment with the President, he said, and after getting it, had shown her documents about the extent of corruption in the AFP.

"I attempted to tell her how bad things were at the AFP but she never let me. I was flipping over the pages of my research papers and she never gave me a chance. She refused to believe it. She berated me. She kept yakking and yakking. Instead of opening her mind to the serious allegations, she berated me and ordered me detained and paraded to the media. I think everybody knows how arrogant our President is. Everybody can visualize it."

GMA's people promptly countered. "He's lying through his teeth," Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said. "I cannot imagine how as an officer and a gentleman, he can tell lies like that," Col. Delfin Bangit said. Bangit was one of two Malacañang aides Trillanes had the misfortune to name as witnesses to the event. The other was Capt. Christopher Magdangal who was equally vociferous in denying Trillanes' account. The President, he said, merely told Trillanes, "You are young and idealistic, don't be like Gringo Honasan."

Till then it was a tossup on who to believe. Easy enough to visualize the President "yakking," but not so easy to believe Trillanes without proof.

The incident with Perez, however, was witnessed by a more objective crew of people. Indeed, it was witnessed by an entire horde, some 100 of them who were attending a dinner at a hotel in Calapan, Mindoro. That was the venue GMA chose to launch her harangue against Perez. Her beef was that Perez had interviewed Gregorio Honasan during the state of rebellion. "We have assets who saw you with Honasan during the state of rebellion," GMA said. "That's abetting rebellion."

Perez replied meekly that she interviewed Honasan on Aug. 12, after GMA lifted the state of rebellion. But GMA was adamant. "No, it was during, and that's abetting rebellion."

Perez said she did not want to argue the point with the President out of respect, but felt humiliated by the dressing down in public. One reporter said the President was glaring down at her all the time.

How it happened may at least not be hidden in that case. There are far too many witnesses to the event. My heart bleeds for Perez because I too have a daughter who is a TV reporter and I've always wondered how I'd feel if she got something like this for showing journalistic initiative and enterprise. I know how I'd feel—and react—if it happened to me. My respect for anyone, the President included, ends where my respect for myself begins. I do not take to public rebuke kindly, particularly a thoroughly misguided one. I'm liable to say, "Do your job and I'll do mine."

The scolding is misguided. Even if you grant that Perez did the interview during the state of rebellion and not after, what of it? Honasan is just a suspect, notwithstanding that he is in hiding. His role in the last mutiny remains a matter to be proven. Last I looked, in this country a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Quite apart from that, even if you grant that Perez did the interview during the state of rebellion and not after, and there was more than sufficient ground to suppose Honasan was guilty as hell, what of it? Honasan was guilty as hell during the coups in Cory's time—he was right there in the forefront—yet journalists, by dint of pluck and resourcefulness, managed to interview him in his places of hiding. I do not recall that Cory berated anyone in public, and said she, or he, was overstepping the bounds of national security.

In any case, what threat to national security does Honasan pose? The coup is over, he is in hiding. The possibility that he can raise another mutiny, assuming he had something to do with the last one, is next to nil. The only thing he can raise are issues against the President. That is not a threat to national security, that is a threat to her. The problem precisely with people who elevate National Security into words with capital letters, or who make them the all-encompassing concern of the republic, is that they mistake their personal stake for the national one. They tend to say, like Louis XIV, "*L'etat, c'est moi*"— "*I* am the State."

Who needs Homobono Adaza? GMA has just made a forceful defense for Trillanes and company.

As usual, Tiglao comes to the rescue. "As a former media man, I will be the first to protest any form of curtailment of the legitimate freedom of the press. There is absolutely no policy of surveilling media men, nor will there ever be."

He misses the point. The problem here is not the surveillance, it is the granting to the President of the right to determine how journalists should report. As a former INQUIRER man, and not just a media man, Tiglao should know that was precisely what the INQUIRER protested when Erap singled out INQUIRER reporters for persecution because he said they were not treating him fairly. The day presidents reserve the right to say when a report about him, or her, is fair is the day the freedom of the press dies. The day presidents reserve the right to say when a report about an event is a threat to national security is the day the freedom of the press dies.

Interesting that Tiglao should modify freedom of the press with "legitimate." Who is to determine "legitimate?" Gloria?

The state is not GMA. And if this episode shows anything, it is only that the gap grows even wider between the state of the republic and the state of the President's mind.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Clashes over national security

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

REPORTS say President Macapagal-Arroyo lost her temper and scolded reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez of GMA Network for interviewing suspected coup plotter Gregorio Honasan on TV while the state of rebellion was still in force. The President was said to have accused Perez in Mindoro of "aiding and abetting the enemy."

The episode brings me back to August 1987, when then Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos got very angry with me after the INQUIRER ran a front-page interview of Honasan that I did in the morning of the failed coup he pulled at Camp Aguinaldo. Honasan and other RAM officers had been my neighbors at the camp for some years, and that morning I spotted him near the golf club and walked up to him to ask him why he launched his coup. I felt I wrote a dispassionate and unemotional interview, which was quite a scoop; but Ramos was livid with anger the next day. In full view of the media, as he took us around the camp to see the damage wrought by Honasan's rebels, FVR said I was aiding and abetting the enemy.

* * *

In my case, he probably had more reason to get upset, as my husband, then a brigade commander in Laguna, was at that time en route to Manila with his troops to help defend Cory Aquino's administration. At that moment, however, I followed my journalist's instincts (my daughter also wrote a blow-by-blow account of the coup and phoned it in to the Manila Chronicle) and argued with FVR that I was just doing my job. But why Honasan, he bellowed, why not about the generals and colonels who did not desert their posts at GHQ, but remained loyal to the flag and the Constitution? FVR said these senior officers gallantly made what could have been their last stand, as the rebels had set fire to the GHQ; were it not for the timely counterattack by the Marines, they would have been roasted to death. Realizing there was a very enthralling story, I interviewed and wrote a second story about the rescued officers, which must have evened up my score with FVR.

* * *

Problems between the authorities and media have cropped up and will continue to crop up, as the question of national security interest clashes with the media's job of telling a story. I recall how angry US President Kennedy was with the New York Times over what he felt was a violation of its responsibility toward national security, that he cancelled his subscription to that prestigious newspaper for some years.

What I can tell the President is that she doesn't have to fear the stories about Honasan, as he has little following except for some misguided junior officers. Recall that he could hardly make it to the tail-end of the senatorial slate in 2001. Moreover, the rift between Honasan and his former comrades in RAM, such as, Prospero Maligalig, Billy Bibit and now Undersecretary Abraham Puruganan is sending a more powerful message to the people and the military than GMA's *taray* with the media over him could ever do. Then too, like his disciple Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV whose feet of clay are now getting exposed, many things are now surfacing about Honasan's fabled lifestyle that show he's far from being the reformist he purports to be.

* * *

The Oakwood mutineers are trying hard to convince the people that—as chair of the fact-finding commission, Justice Florentino Feliciano, put it—it is only they who have a monopoly on patriotism and idealism. But as they presented their sweeping charges of graft and corruption in the military, it became clear that they were working with spurious documents or did not have enough knowledge to talk about the issues authoritatively. Much as these young officers from PMA's class '95 want to paint themselves as the saviors of the Armed Forces, anyone who has worked with the AFP knows that the only way to work for reforms within is to strengthen its institutional mechanisms for check and balance; even angels, given too much unbridled power, can be corrupted.

* * *

Take for instance, the Retirement and Security Benefit Systems (RSBS), which controls the pensions of military personnel. RSBS' troubles in the mid-'90s aggravated when a powerful clique mostly from a PMA class got to control it, resorting to practices, such as, investing 50 percent of its assets in real estate, against the dictates of prudence. Because of the scandals that erupted in the RSBS, the AFP leadership saw fit to give in to the clamor to install a civilian president in the RSBS. As Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, deputy chief of staff for Personnel (J-1), pointed out in our dzRH program, since then, there have been two civilian presidents at the RSBS. The current prexy, Cesar Jayme, is a professional banker with an AIM background.

Mayuga also pointed out that the salary increase mandated by law for the AFP is being implemented in three tranches over a two-year period—October 2002, January 2003 and January 2004, unlike in the PNP where it took 10 years. By January 2004, he stressed, the lowest rank in the AFP, the private, will earn about P12,000 a month, placing his salary at par with the public school teachers'. The J-1 chief further pointed out that last year, long before the Oakwood putsch, the Macapagal administration had exempted from taxes the allowances of all military personnel, to allow them to bring home a bigger sum. Because it is only their base pay that is now being taxed, Trillanes, for instance, will get to save this year around P24,000 from the exemption, notes Mayuga.

Afghan violence poses tough questions for Nato, US

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mike Collett-White

KABUL—In an ominous sign for the United States and Nato, Afghanistan is living up to a reputation it hoped was buried in the past—as a brutal and lawless land.

The wave of violence this week claiming at least 65 lives has highlighted both the growing threat from Taliban remnants and other anti-US elements and the failure of foreign forces in Afghanistan to crush the Islamic militia and impose security.

In its first week in command of the 5,000-strong international peacekeeping force in Kabul, Nato is facing tough questions about its role amid urgent calls to expand both the number of troops and its geographical scope.

"We are talking about tripling the number of peacekeepers, meaning an increase of 10-12,000, and with Nato now in charge, there is hope for some movement on the expansion issue (outside Kabul)," a government official said in Kabul.

Timing is crucial, security and political analysts say.

The Taliban and other groups—including renegade warlords and, perhaps, al-Qaida fugitives—appear to be growing in confidence and strength, and elections that will help shape the future of the troubled state are due to be held in less than a year.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has dismissed the threat posed by Taliban guerrillas, but more and more people are willing to challenge that argument.

"There has been a sort of crescendo of attacks which is increasingly worrying," said a Western diplomat in Kabul.

"It appears to be targeted against officials, police and moderate clergy in provinces like Zabul and Kandahar, and it does seem quite systematic," he added, referring to southern areas that formed the Taliban heartland before its ouster in 2001.

Pinning particular attacks on the hardline militia is difficult, and other culprits are blamed—factional rivals, firebrand warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and al-Qaida.

But whoever is responsible, the focus of attacks in recent months has been mainly Afghan forces, clerics and local NGO workers whom the Taliban labels legitimate targets because they side with the United States.

"They are targeting Afghan government troops, the Afghan government administration, so that's a clear change of tactic," said Tony Davies of Jane's Defence Weekly in Bangkok.

"They are also operating in far bigger numbers than before." Afghan forces said they had killed up to 40 Taliban guerrillas in a single attack in the south on June 5, in which seven soldiers also died. Days later four German peacekeepers were killed in a suicide car bombing in the capital.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, Afghans engaged suspected Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in the southeast, killing 16 enemy troops while losing five. Another 42 people died on Wednesday in three separate incidents, including a bomb on a passenger bus.

Where many experts do agree with Karzai is that renewed violence, some of the worst since the fall of the Taliban, could only happen if militants were able to operate from Pakistan.

"The Taliban are there, but it is not a nationwide force that has the support of the people," said the government official. "They are operating from Pakistan." Islamabad says it is doing its utmost to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaida fighters along the long and ill-defined Afghan-Pakistan frontier, but Kabul doubts this.

Some analysts are concerned that the cycle of violence could turn popular opinion against the United States and the US-backed government, especially in areas where reconstruction and aid has been slow to materialize.

Karzai's grip on power, already loose outside Kabul, would slip still further.

The growing security problem has put immediate pressure on Nato, venturing out of Europe for the first time in its history.

Lakhdar Brahimi, UN special envoy to Afghanistan, urged the Security Council this week to expand peacekeeping outside Kabul, repeating earlier demands.

But Western diplomats in the capital doubt the proposal is feasible, involving as it would the deployment of thousands more troops into a risky environment as well as high costs.

Davies of Jane's disagrees with Brahimi, saying that an expansion in the size and scope of the peacekeeping force would look too much like the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and could itself trigger more fighting.

He supports instead the deployment of more civilian-military Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Four PRTs, each about 60-70 strong, are operating in Afghanistan, helping with reconstruction and providing a valuable ear-to-the-ground in volatile areas.

Whether more PRTs are used or not, it will be years before Afghanistan's own forces are ready to take on the challenge themselves. The fledgling Afghan National Army numbers just 5,000, is badly equipped and has had only minimal training.

Reuters

Mutiny nips interest in absentee voting

COMMENTARY

Natalia M.L.M. Morales

LONG BEACH, California—An hour-long, trafficky drive south of Los Angeles takes us to Hotel Queen Mary, once a spunky, luxurious oceanliner now docked in the sunny California resort city. Queen Mary was the site of the three-day western regional conference of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi where the Philippines counts as the only international member, dating back to 1933 when the country was still a commonwealth under the United States. This year 2003 marks the Jubilee Year of Chapter 045 of the Phi Kappa Phi which is based at the University of the Philippines. Its president, Prof. Carmelita Ramirez, and two vice presidents, Dr. Gilda Rivero and myself, attended the convention. As the only international participants, the weekend mutiny of July 27 caused us anxiety, not to mention inconvenience to our hosts and organizers. For sure, they did not understand the meaning of the "state of rebellion" that President Macapagal-Arroyo declared.

There were sympathies from co-participants. Prof. Jim Heflin of Cameron University in Oklahoma asked me about the nature of the mutiny. From his puzzled look, I could gather why a statement of grievances would have to lead to a "state of rebellion." Only after I explained the dynamics of Philippine politics that his knitted brow relaxed.

Dr. Perry Snyder, the executive director of the Phi Kappa main office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a historian at Louisiana State University, understood quickly the volatile Philippine situation. Louisiana exhibited such political temper when it became part of the US territory in the early 1800s. Duels, assassinations, conspiracy in the state made up a good part of early American history.

The response of the California Pinoys I met on this trip was casual, if not critically neutral. I suspect that every negative event in the native land affirms their act of migration. Interestingly, Aug. 1 marks the first day of registration for absentee voting, which ends on Sept. 30. If the weekend's mutiny had any impact, some barometer is available to gauge that.

According to the Los Angeles Asia Journal (Aug. 2, 2003), "absentee voting registration in LA was off to a sluggish start." Reports circulated that out of seven early registrants, three were from the consulate office. In all fairness, the report credited our consulate led by Consul General Marciano Paynor Jr. with doing an energetic campaign among the Pinoy residents there. The LA consulate also covers southern Nevada (including Las Vegas), Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, with a conservative estimate of 120,000 potential registrants.

Those who went to the consulate did so out of what they feel was their civic duty. They want to have a real say on who will govern the Philippines in the coming years. Those interviewed shunned some big, popular names who do not have a political track record. Many of them believe the country has suffered because election is based on sheer popularity rather than political efficacy. President Macapagal is favored among the early registrants, with Danding Cojuangco as the second choice, according to the report.

The mutiny somehow dissipated whatever growing interest Filipino professionals have in absentee voting. News on the mutiny afforded them a better chance to look at the Overseas Absentee Voting Act. The required execution of an affidavit to return to the Philippines after three years discouraged a number of qualified registrants. To a former activist, now accountant and Oklahoman cattle ranch owner Johanan Fuentes, the three-year return rule is an indication that the Philippine government wishes nothing but investments from Filipinos momentarily residing abroad. The rule is too restricting since the intention is always there but the time element depends on a number of other factors such as political stability, competence and economic security.

The sentiment is echoed by LA-based lawyer Ceferino Olivar Jr. and accountant Victoria Abrigo-Sosa. Olivar contends many countries practice absentee voting without the execution of too many documents. The act of voting in a distant place by itself indicates the intent to return. Even this can be critiqued in a global community where the duties of citizenship can be done not just geographically but also electronically.

This idea has been concurred to by my cousin, an engineer-builder in Van Nuys, Amador Mineque Felipe II, who intends to retire in the Philippines. He thinks that absentee voting is a separate act from the intent to return; the latter is a matter of individual choice rather than an execution of a political mandate. Absentee voting without real ability to influence policymaking does not win the battle for overseas Filipinos. Adventurism by military rogues only blurs the broader issues of nationhood and democracy and nips the budding interest of the overseas Filipinos in political participation. They have as much stake in the country as those of us in the homeland.

For this reason, they all look forward to the passing of the act on dual citizenship. Such status can eliminate many of the encumbrances of absentee voting and assure their native country of the benefits derived from a second citizenship. This is a legislation where our lawmakers' energy can be put to better use now.

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Newspaper piracy

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

VIDEO piracy, or the illegal reproduction and distribution of original movie or television compositions, is a big headache for the Videogram Regulatory Board. It has its hands full trying to run after the syndicates behind this crime.

Another form of intellectual dishonesty that is equally reprehensible but has remained unnoticed is newspaper piracy. Or the unauthorized use of the editorial and photo contents of newspapers by other media outlets.

A reader, Gabriel Marquez, wrote to bring to the INQUIRER's attention the way some information disseminators abroad have been pirating or plagiarizing the contents of this newspaper.

The reader wrote: "I've just been to Toronto, Canada, where I got hold of Philippine Reporter, a local Pinoy publication. I was struck by the brazen piracy of your newspaper's stories and photos. I'd say up to 75 percent of the Toronto paper's contents are from the INQUIRER, including the column of Conrado de Quiros.

"And they're very open about the source of their stories by putting INQUIRER taglines. The same situation is true for the Pinoy communities in the United States and other countries abroad.

"I am surprised why you allow such blatantly illegal acts. Have you even tried warning or threatening these overseas publications with lawsuits?"

Foreign tabloids

This is not the first time I heard about the unauthorized reprinting of the INQUIRER's editorial contents by newspapers published in places abroad that have a high concentration of expatriate Filipinos. Once, I saw a newspaper in San Francisco, California, that, except for the name, was a virtual carbon copy of the INQUIRER.

About a year ago, I wrote an article in this newspaper that was critical of the demand by some Fil-Americans to be given equal voting rights as Filipino citizens. An indignant American citizen (he emphasized that status in his letter) with Filipino roots wrote me to protest some of the things I said in the article.

He enclosed in his letter a clipping of my article that appeared in a weekly tabloid being edited by a group of former Filipino newspapermen who live in San Diego, California. In my correspondence with him, I learned that the tabloid had been in operation for more than 10 years. Its contents were a hodgepodge of news reports and columns from Philippine broadsheets, with the INQUIRER as the principal source.

With no reporters and editors to pay, the tabloid's "cut and paste" operations must have netted its publishers a lot of profits already. Some people seem to be smarter than others.

Sad but true, the piracy of contents of Philippine broadsheets is more rampant right here in our country than in those places in the world where many Filipinos have migrated or found lucrative jobs. The unauthorized use of editorial and photo content happens every day right under our noses.

Broadcasts

I was told by the head of INQUIRER's circulation department that representatives of radio and television stations operating in Metro Manila get their copies of the newspaper from the dealers as early as one o'clock in the morning. Until the practice was stopped, these people used to hang around the delivery gate of the printing press to get the first copies of the newspaper at around 11:30 p.m.

The front-page news reports are used as staple for the news broadcasts of these stations. The AM radio stations translate the news to Filipino. Their FM counterpart simply read the news, word for word, sometimes including the grammatical errors. It is rare that these radio stations acknowledge that their reports come from the INQUIRER.

The TV stations that have early morning news programs usually show at the start of the telecast the front page of the newspapers whose news they read on the air. After that initial recognition of the news source, the succeeding news telecasts are made to appear as if the station's reporters gathered the news.

The other broadsheets suffer from the same kind of piracy. The juicy or interesting parts of their articles, including columns, are selectively picked out and read without the benefit of an acknowledgment, much less a "thank you" for using the materials without prior permission. If something similar were done in the United States or Europe, the radio or TV station concerned would have been obliged to pay the newspaper a "usage fee."

I learned that the Toronto-based newspaper mentioned by the reader is not authorized to reprint the editorial content of the INQUIRER. Outside of the international and regional news agencies that the INQUIRER has syndication agreements, the only foreign newspaper that can legally reproduce the INQUIRER's materials is the US-based Asian Journal. A quarterly publication, it has four editions that are distributed in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and parts of Northern California.

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All other newspapers published elsewhere that reprint the INQUIRER's editorial materials are doing it in gross violation of internationally recognized rules on newspaper copyright.

The foreign-based newspapers that pirate the INQUIRER's contents know that what they're doing is illegal. They can be held liable for damages under the laws of the countries where they operate.

From my reading of these newspapers, some of the ways they try to avoid getting into trouble for infringement of copyright are: words or phrases are inserted in the original article to give the impression it is a different version, the arrangement or sequence of paragraphs is changed, the news report is bylined as a contribution, or the newspaper makes it appear that the reprint has been previously authorized.

Ingenious, but not good enough. The editorial manipulation cannot hide the deceitful act.

To answer the reader's question: the INQUIRER is aware of the problem and is doing something about the piracy. For obvious reasons, however, I am not at liberty to disclose those moves.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Imagine a world where. . .

INSTEAD of judging, we try to understand;

Instead of blaming, we take responsibility;

Instead of criticizing, we praise,

Instead of gossiping, we spread the Word... that the Word is Love;

Instead of hurting, we forgive;

Instead of worrying, we trust;

Instead of hanging on, we let go;

Instead of living in the past or future, we focus on the present;

Instead of hating, we simply state our preference;

Instead of being shy, we express with confidence;

Instead of getting sick, we stay healthy through laughter;

Instead of being sad, we decide to be happy;

Instead of running away, we face our problems;

Instead of fearing, we pray for guidance;

Instead of finding fault, we look for the good;

Instead of doubting, we believe that things are working out for the best;

Instead of feeling separated from each other, we recognize our Oneness;

Instead of fighting, we make peace;

Instead of being offensive, we increase and multiply our acts of kindness;

Instead of anticipating the worst, we expect the best;

And finally,

Instead of being lonely, we serve and uplift others.

—GEORGE SISON
author and TV host

How about study-now-pay-later loans?

RINA Jimenez-David in her column (PDI, 8/9/03) wrote about the need to save UP by, among others, exempting it from the salary standardization law. This, of course, would mean additional funding.

The INQUIRER's Aug. 13 issue had this story on Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta urging the integration of state universities and colleges. This again has a lot to do with the budgetary concerns of these schools.

I would like to suggest that the practice of making loans to students in public schools, particularly UP, be established. Many of them go on to become successful in their respective fields but forget conveniently their owing this in part to their subsidized education.

Let us say that a state university, with 20,000, has the annual budget of P2 billion. Roughly, the annual cost of educating each of these students is P100,000. Now, if a student is made to pay only P2,000 per year, there would be a deficit of P98,000. For this amount, that student should be made to sign a promissory note payable 10 or 20 years later, with nominal interest of perhaps one percent per annum.

If after 10 years, the individual would not be in a position to pay the amount, he would simply execute an affidavit of incapacity to pay and the note would be extended another 10 years. If at the end of the second period, he still would not be in a position to pay the loan, he would simply execute another affidavit and the loan could then be simply written off.

This idea is, of course, a general one and may be modified to adapt to the realities of the situation.

Another suggestion is for successful people to be persuaded to contribute to scholarship funds for their schools of origin. For example: President Macapagal-Arroyo, for Assumption, ADMU and UP; Vice President Tito Guingona for ADMU; Senate President Franklin Drilon for UP; Speaker Jose de Venecia for ADMU; Chief Justice Hilario Davide for UP and so on.

A consequential benefit arising from the student loan concept would be that students would be encouraged to actively press for the proper use of funds by the school administrators.

—RENE TORRES,
rentorres@yahoo.com

A system that rots

THE MAGDALO group had a very legitimate cause for staging the Oakwood mutiny. They merely wanted to put an end, if it was at all possible, to a system that rots, a system where the government's own ammunitions are utilized against its own men, the defenders of the Constitution and the Republic. Of course, rational beings would not and could not tolerate such abominable actions of their superiors.

Now, could you blame this group of soldiers for what they did? The Philippine Military Academy molded them into men of dignity, strong convictions and honesty. The academy should be applauded for producing graduates clothed with principles. But then, principles may not be enough.

I wonder then, whatever happened to their superiors, also graduates from the same academy? Are they not principled, too?

—EVELYN T. CALDERON,
Lustre Street,
Zamboanga City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Tall tales, what now?

FINALLY, erstwhile Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus has publicly admitted (PDI, 8/5/03) that he misjudged the case of restaurant owner Kim Wong when he accused and labeled the latter as a drug lord. What a lot of people do not know is that there is a Senate report on the charges leveled against Sen. Panfilo Lacson where the following recommendation was made:

"3. Admonish and strongly reprimand Col. Victor Corpus of the Isafp and his men.

"3.1 For their professional blunder and show of disregard for the person wrongly depicted as Mr. Wong, for which the Isafp should be admonished, strongly reprimanded and warned that a repetition of this episode will not be tolerated.

"3.2 For presenting witness Ador Mawanay whose testimony the Committee found to be unreliable and without credence."

It is not enough for Corpus to simply admit his mistake on Wong. He must have the moral courage and decency to make a public apology to Wong for, among others, besmirching the latter's reputation as a legitimate businessman and for inflicting a lie on the public. And what does this make of Mary Ong and her tall tales about Wong?

—FRANCISCO CHAVEZ,
counsel for Kim Wong,
7/F Kalaw-Ledesma
Condominium, 117 Gamboa St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Philam's side of the 'burglary' at Marquez residence

REGARDING the article titled "Melanie Marquez victimized by burglars" (PDI, 8/7/03), may we clarify the following:

Homeowners or residents of Philam Subdivision are obliged to notify our security headquarters if they leave their homes unoccupied for any specific period of time. Melanie Marquez failed to do so, leaving her house on East Maya Drive unattended for days as she had done in the past, and so became an easy prey to burglars.

Philam's security has established and reported to the Quezon City police the following facts:

1. No forcible break-in or entry occurred, but someone with inside knowledge of her house was able to get in. An attempt was made to unlock the door to the master's bedroom.

2. No burglary occurred, because no cash or valuables were found missing. Marquez herself admitted this to the Philam Security and neighborhood watch volunteers.

3. Although the house was in slight disarray, no ransacking occurred except for some scattered documents.

The Philam Security covers the 45-hectare subdivision of more than 648 houses and some 7,666 residents.

It would be practical for Marquez to hire a security guard of her own considering that the escalator to the MRT terminal and a taxi depot are behind her lot.

The association has asked her to bring her complaint to the proper authorities, but until now she has not done so.

—CYNTHIA J. MOSS,
general manager,
Administration Office,
Clubhouse Building,
Philam Homes, Quezon City

NFA transfer disadvantageous to Philippine government

PLEASE allow us to clarify some of the points in the statement of National Food Authority administrator Arthur C. Yap, regarding the transfer of the NFA central office to One San Miguel Condominium (OSMC), Ortigas Center. Said transfer was stalled because the owners of the Matimyas and Tengsico Buildings—which house the present NFA central office—secured a temporary restraining order issued by Branch 220 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Incidentally, the NFA Employees Association (NFAEA) on July 31, 2003 sought a TRO from the Quezon City RTC to prohibit the NFA management from transferring the central office to OSMC. The transfer is grossly disadvantageous to the government, because, among other considerations, the OSMC contract of lease calls for a comparatively higher rental and is attended with hidden expenses for renovations, irrecoverable improvements and other related costs that could reach up to P143 million in two years. It also violates the open bidding procedure. To both employees and stakeholders, OSMC is an unfavorable location, which could only aggravate the economic hardship of the more than 700 NFA employees.

The NFAEA submitted an alternative proposal to build a modest three-story building at the NFA-owned lot at Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, and to convert the warehouse space as an office, at a cost less than what the NFA will be spending for relocation and 24-month rentals. The NFA management ignored this proposal and negotiated instead a contract of lease with the OSMC owners.

The NFAEA views the decision to transfer to OSMC as another scheme to weaken the NFA's leverage in preserving its corporate structure which has been found to be effective in carrying out its mandate to stabilize grains price and supply in the country. Without a permanent central office, it would be easy for the NFA management to work for the dismemberment of the very agency it is supposed to protect. The NFA management drafted HB 5636 and SB 2974—which seek the separation or the "decoupling" of the agency's regulatory and proprietory functions. This will abolish the NFA and give way to a National Food Corp., which will operate purely for profit, and a Food Development Regulatory Authority. The decoupling of the NFA functions is a WB-IMF-ADB imposition. For this, the NFA management this year has earmarked P7.3 million to ensure the NFA's dismemberment.

The NFAEA with the strong backing of the Coalition of Farmers Organization, Unions and Retailers or C-FOUR, is against the decoupling of the NFA functions as this will effectively weaken the government's mechanism for "strategic rice intervention," especially in times of grains price and supply volatility. Surely, without an effective government presence in the grains market, big business will take control of the very profitable grains trade industry at the expense of farmers, ordinary consumers and the poor.

—LARRY TAN,
vice president and chair,
NFAEA Task Force,
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, QC

Deal with the rebel soldiers severely

THE YOUNG rebels who have set back our efforts at economic recovery by their failed coup d'etat have done our country a great disservice. Their reckless adventurism is tantamount to economic sabotage. They must be dealt with severely.

Why plant bombs to air grievances? Why push for reforms through the barrel of a gun? We find the use of violence as a means to bring about change abhorrent.

While the grievances they aired are serious, they didn't present evidence. We do not support a crusade based on half-truths and bare allegations. As the investigation progresses, it is now turning out that their real objective was to subvert our democracy and democratic institutions by grabbing power and installing a military junta headed by their "*kuya*," an inveterate coup plotter with a lackluster record in the Senate.

Why couldn't they wait for the elections just nine months away? Why sacrifice democracy regained by years of struggle and loss of many lives to satisfy the naked ambition of a politician peddling a pie-in-sky program of government?

The coup plotters denounce corruption. Where did the millions that funded their folly come from? Was that clean money?

We await the truth about the mutiny—who aided, abetted and instigated it. We await the truth about the serious charges made especially about corruption in the military and the bombings in Mindanao.

—EVELYN L. KILAYKO,
executive committee member,
ANDIE C. LASALA,
executive director,
Konsyensyang Pilipino,
Katipunan Avenue,
Loyola Heights,
1108 Quezon City

Give all P38-billion recovered Marcos wealth to victims

THE P38-BILLION Marcos ill-gotten wealth recovered by the government should all be given to the human rights victims of the Marcos era. First, if not for their courage, determination and heroism, it would have taken longer to oust the dictator. Second, they filed a class suit against the Marcos family to demand compensation for the human rights violations by the martial law regime against their persons.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's position to allot only P8 billion to the human rights victims and the rest to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is full of deceit. CARP, as most farmers would attest, is bogus. For more than 15 years it has failed to achieve its purpose and it has only re-concentrated lands in the hands of landlords, like Danding Cojuangco. Up till now, seven to eight out of 10 farmers do not own the land they till. Moreover, CARP is being used as a tool for land-grabbing by the government itself and some big landlords. By giving P30 billion to the Department of Agrarian Reform, the government will just further enrich the landlords, who will use that money to buy their unproductive lands which will then be sold to the poor farmers.

—REGINALD VALLEJOS
secretary general,
National Network of Agrarian
Reform Advocates-Youth Sector,
17-D Kasing-kasing St., QC

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Saboteurs attack major Iraqi oil pipeline

TIKRIT, Iraq—A ferocious blaze raged for a third day at a giant oil pipeline in northern Iraq Sunday, and US military officials said it was too soon to say what triggered the fire. Earlier, Iraqi police officials blamed saboteurs.

Also Sunday, the Danish Army reported one of its soldiers died after being shot during a gun battle with armed Iraqis whose truck had been stopped during a routine patrol near Basra in southern Iraq.

The soldier was the first Dane to be killed in Iraq since Denmark sent a contingent of about 400 soldiers this summer to join the stabilization force in the Basra region.

Two Iraqis were killed in the shootout on Saturday, one was wounded and six were arrested, the Danish Army command said in Copenhagen.

The new Iraqi police commander had vowed on Saturday to pursue the "conspirators" behind the attack that halted oil exports to Turkey only days after they resumed, cutting off vital income for an economy in shambles.

The crumbling network of pipe had begun pumping oil to Turkey on Wednesday, and the explosion early Friday near Baiji, 200 km northeast of Baghdad, cut it off completely, acting Iraqi Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadaban said in the capital.

Police Brig. Gen. Ahmed Ibrahim, once imprisoned for speaking out against Saddam Hussein, was appointed Saturday to be the top Iraqi law enforcement official. He blamed the explosion on "a group of conspirators who received money from a particular party," which he didn't identify.

"With God's help, we will arrest those people and bring them to justice," Ibrahim said. "The damage inflicted on the pipeline is damage done to all Iraqi people."

But a US military spokesperson said it was too soon to say whether the explosion was an accident or sabotage.

"Until it's cooled off, nobody can say exactly what happened," said Lt. Col. William MacDonald, of the 4th Infantry Division based in Tikrit. People on the ground were still waiting to investigate the cause, he said.

Al-Ghadaban said it would take several days to get the pipeline working again. "It is a large pipeline with large volume of crude oil," he said.

Iraq has the world's second-largest proven crude reserves, at 112 billion barrels, but its pipelines, pumping stations and oil reservoirs are dilapidated after more than a decade of neglect. Northern Iraq, site of the giant Kirkuk oil fields, accounts for 40 percent of Iraq's oil production.

"We're setting up a new police force, bringing in modern weapons and leadership to guard and secure the country, and soon everyone will be safe," he said at a Baghdad news conference.

Ibrahim had been working as head of the Iraqi police's special investigations unit and was shot in the right leg during a police raid last month. As well as the weapons seized, that raid also netted a high-ranking member of the Saddam Fedayeen militia. *AP*

Questions linger on cause of US blackout

NEW YORK—Aside from the garbage cans overflowing with spoiled food, the water-boil warnings and the flood of questions about how transmission problems ended up leaving 50 million people in the dark, life in the Northeast was close to normal two days after a historically bad blackout.

The probe into how the eight-state, two-nation blackout began centered on an area just south of Cleveland, where a leading investigator said three transmission lines failed just before the massive outage.

Michehl Gent, head of the North American Electric Reliability Council, suggested human error might have been the reason the problems were not isolated before they knocked out power from Michigan to New Jersey to the Canadian province of Ontario.

"The system has been designed and rules have been created to prevent this escalation and cascading. It should have stopped," Gent said in a telephone conference call.

Gent said investigators were examining more than 10,000 pages of data, including automatically generated logs on power flows over transmission lines, to determine what caused the blackout.

FirstEnergy Corp., the utility firm based in Akron, Ohio, that officials said owned at least two of the three lines, said alarm systems that might have alerted engineers to the failed lines were broken, but that functioning backup systems had been in place. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Radioactive theft

NEW DELHI—Three metal cylinders containing radioactive material have been stolen from a steel plant in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, a company official said Sunday. Thieves stole three containers of the radioactive substance, cobalt-60, on Friday from the privately owned Tata Steel factory in Jamshedpur, an official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The burglars dug a hole in a wall at the rear of the building to access the room where the radioactive material was stored, leaving a sophisticated alarm system at the front of the building untouched, the official said. *AP*

China earthquake

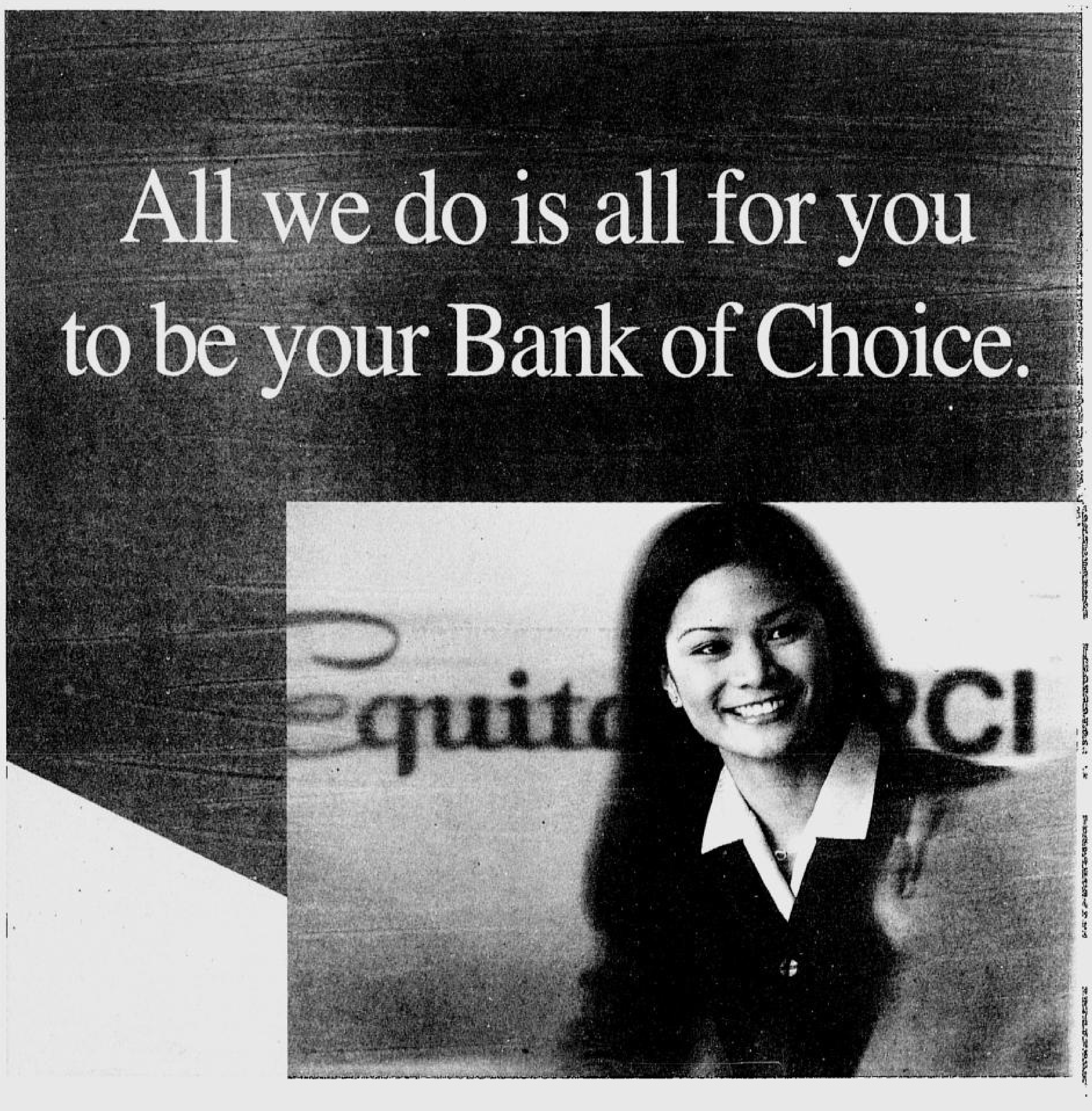
BEIJING—A moderate earthquake that hit northern China killed two people and injured at least 56, while forcing scores to flee their homes as buildings toppled around them, the government and local officials said Sunday. The magnitude-5.9 quake struck at 6:58 p.m. (1058 GMT) Saturday in eastern Inner Mongolia between the towns of Bairin Zuoqi and Ar Horqin qi, northeast of Beijing, where several people also reported feeling minor tremors. "The quake lasted two or three minutes. I saw many people fleeing their homes in a panic," said the official. *AP*

Nazi bar in HK

HONG KONG—An Israeli diplomat on Sunday slammed a Hong Kong karaoke bar for hanging photographs of Adolf Hitler and a Nazi execution on its walls, the second time this month that he has criticized the display of Holocaust symbols in the territory. "It is way beyond my understanding, how people can enjoy a drink and sing karaoke whilst viewing pictures of executions carried out by Nazi soldiers," Israeli Consul General Eli Avidar said in a statement. The popular Bar Pacific has been decorated with photographs of Hitler and Nazi soldiers for four years, but it removed the execution photo after Avidar's complaint. *AP*

Gays disrupt Mass

HONG KONG—A small group of gay rights activists disrupted a Sunday Mass to protest a Hong Kong Roman Catholic publication that criticized same-sex marriages, police and demonstrators said. TV news showed at least two demonstrators making their way to the altar and struggling with Church officials. Six activists shouted slogans at worshippers for about 10 minutes, said protest organizer Noel Chen. Chen slammed Hong Kong's Roman Catholic leader Bishop Joseph Zen and other church officials over two articles against homosexual marriages in last week's Hong Kong Catholic weekly newsletter, Kung Kao Po. *AP*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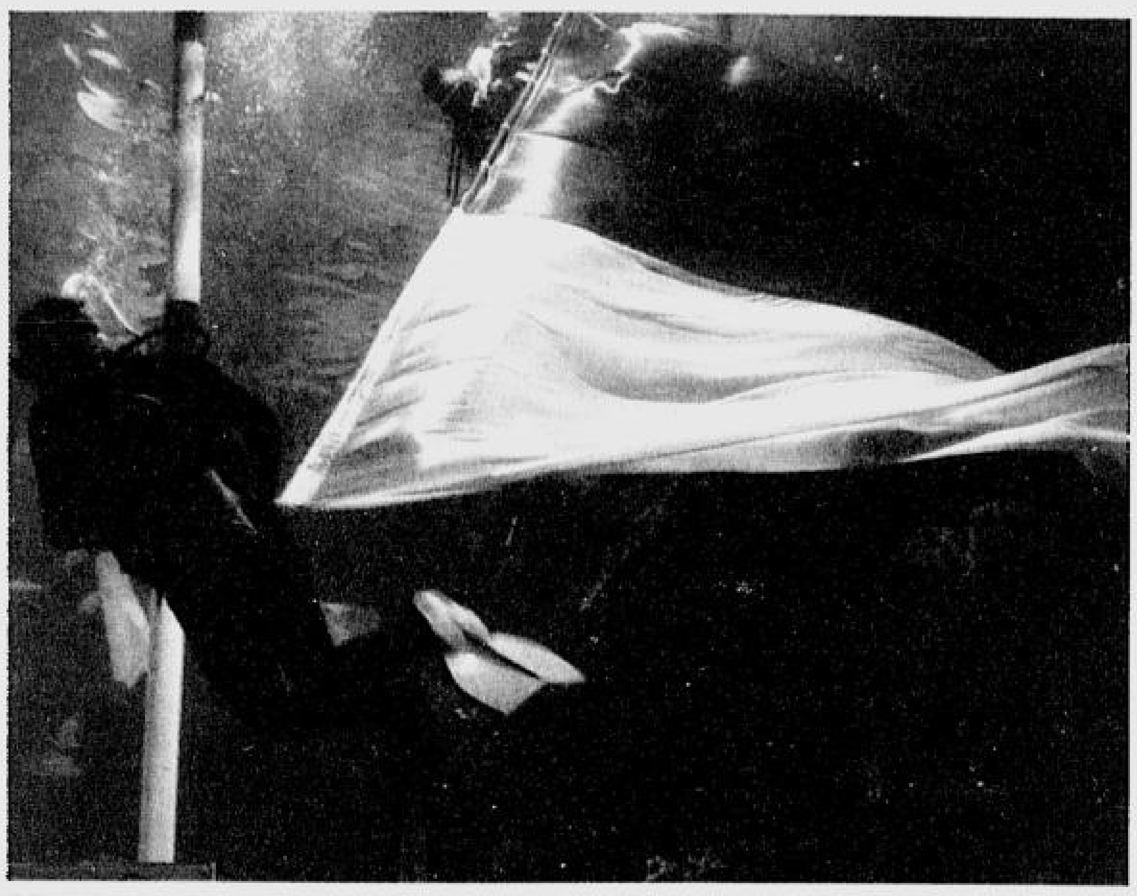
Indon police arrest 9 suspected terrorists


INDONESIAN divers carry a giant national flag at Jakarta's Sea World to commemorate Independence Day.

JAKARTA—Soldiers and police ringed hotels, churches and foreign offices Sunday as Indonesia celebrated its Independence Day amid warnings of terrorist attacks following the arrest of a militant believed to be al-Qaida's point man in Southeast Asia.

After ceremonies at the presidential palace in Jakarta, national police chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar announced that nine suspects had been arrested in connection with the Aug. 5 attack on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in the capital, in which 12 people were killed and nearly 150 injured.

Bachtiar said the nine had been picked up in separate raids over the past week. He gave no further details.

Authorities in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, have vowed to prevent any terrorist attacks on Independence Day, which is celebrated with street parties, rallies and games. A specialized anti-terror team was deployed around the presidential palace.

Intelligence reports had said militants might strike places where foreigners gather, and police backed by military troops were stationed at international hotels, shopping malls, bars, Christian churches and foreign companies' offices.

The warnings coincided with the arrest on Monday of Riduan Isamuddin, an Indonesian better known as Hambali, in central Thailand.

He is believed to have been al-Qaida's Southeast Asia chief, heading the Jemaah Islamiyah network blamed for the bloody Bali bombings in October and the Marriott hotel blast.

Jemaah Islamiyah's web of semi-independent cells also has been blamed for a spate of deadly explosions in the Philippines and terror plots in Singapore, Malaysia and elsewhere in the region.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Hambali may have been plotting to attack the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok on Oct. 21-22, when 21 Pacific Rim leaders including US President George W. Bush are scheduled to meet.

Washington has warned its citizens in Indonesia that Hambali's arrest may be followed by more attacks.

The government in Indonesia's neighbor country, Australia, has repeatedly said intelligence reports showed that the terrorists could launch more strikes.

"Because it is the national day there's thought to be a particular danger," Prime Minister John Howard said on Sunday on Australian television.

Thai authorities have handed Hambali over to US officials, who are interrogating him at an undisclosed location over his role in the Sept.11 attacks.

Indonesia's President Megawati Sukarnoputri telephoned US President George Bush late Saturday, urging him to let Indonesian investigators to question Hambali—and to eventually extradite him to stand trial here, the country's foreign minister said.

"We must have priority (in access to Hambali) because of his link with the investigation of various cases here," Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda told reporters on Sunday during the national day ceremony.

The country declared independence from the Netherlands on Aug. 17, 1945. That was followed by a four-year war that finally ended with the withdrawal of Dutch colonial forces in 1949.

AP

Gov't, rebels begin peace talks in Nepal

NEPALGUNJ, Nepal—Maoist rebel leaders and government ministers resumed peace talks on Sunday in a bid to end seven years of civil war that has killed more than 7,000 people in this Himalayan kingdom.

"We are cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the talks but there is no way of going back. We have to restore peace in the country," Information Minister Kamal Thapa told the Associated Press before the meeting.

The current third round of peace talks was initially scheduled for May but was delayed after the government refused to withdraw the army from rebel-held areas. The rebels later agreed to continue the talks after the government said it would release three jailed guerrilla leaders and inform the insurgents of the status of 36 rebels reported missing.

Thapa and Finance Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani joined Maoist rebel leaders Baburam Bhattarai and Krishna Bahadur Mahara at a heavily guarded hotel at Nepalgunj, a town about 500 km southwest of the capital, Katmandu.

"These talks are important for the future of our nation and it is going to be a historical milestone," said Bhattarai, who is the rebel deputy commander.

Hundreds of soldiers and armed policemen were deployed around the town to provide extra security during the talks.

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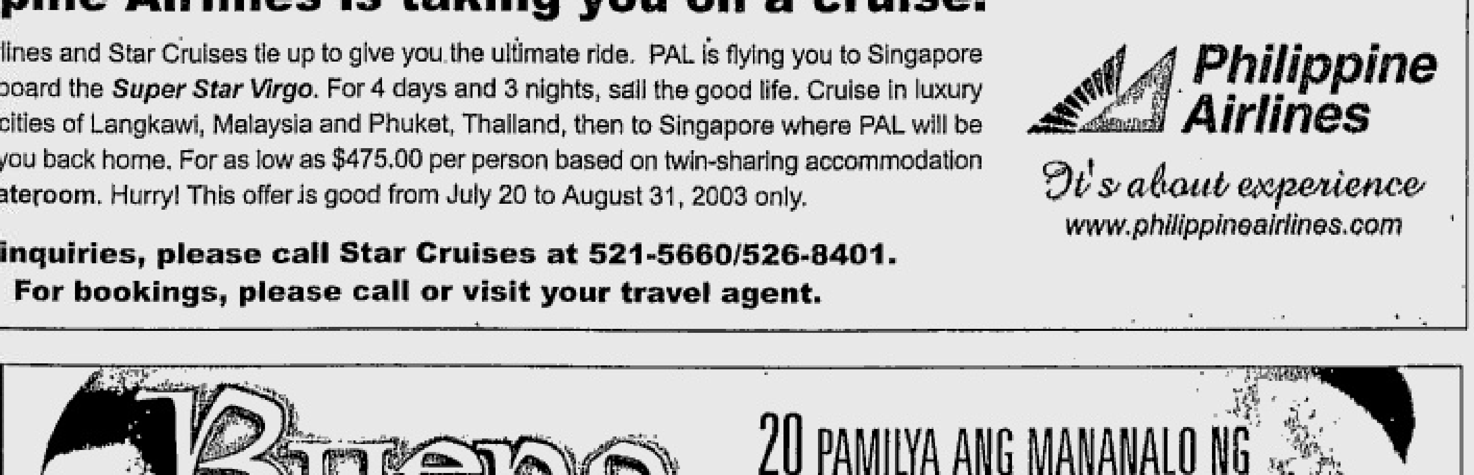

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Supplies rushed to Liberia as hunger grips capital

MONROVIA, Liberia—Boats and planes landed some of the first shipments of desperately needed international aid for Liberia's capital Saturday, while fighting persisted in the interior despite peace talks, blocking all hope of immediate help for the millions trapped there.

US Marines in gun-mounted rubber-walled boats plied Monrovia's port, navigating among sunken vessels as a second relief ship docked following Thursday's lifting of 70 days of sieges by Liberia's rebels.

Hungry still, about 500 civilians gathered to stare at the gates of the port, hoping for some of the food trickling in there. Thousands of others coursed across the newly opened bridge connecting famished government-held areas to the markets of the former rebel-held territory around the port.

"We're still starving, dying of hunger. We're hoping to work for food," said Joseph Sahn, 29. "I'm completely broke. Nothing in my pockets," he said, shaking the sides of his tattered trousers.

Rebels formally ceded control of the port Thursday to West African peace troops backed by US Marines, ending a siege that had killed hundreds outright.

The end of the siege followed Taylor's resignation Monday, under US, West African and rebel pressure.

Humanitarian workers are returning to the city after largely vacating Monrovia during the siege, and the first aid ship docked Friday. Aid workers distributed small amounts of aid Saturday, handing out sacks of cornmeal to families at a church and elsewhere in the city. *AP*

Practice of eating dog stays

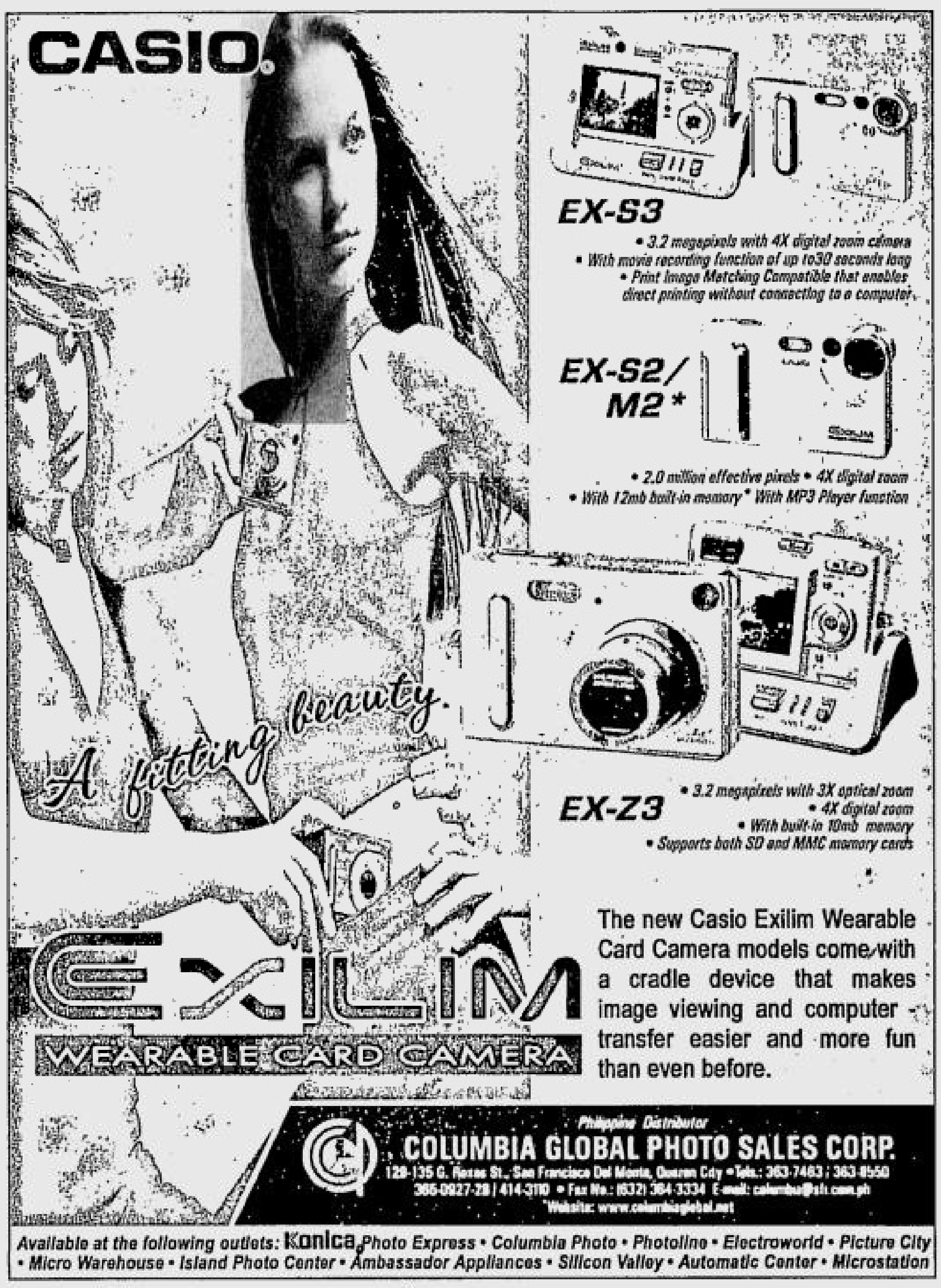
BANGKOK—Villagers in a district of Thailand famed for its dog meat industry have said they want to continue their trade in a survey that has reportedly forced their governor to abandon plans to close them down.

Tha Rae district in Sakhon Nakorn province, 650 km northeast of Bangkok, is renowned for the slaughter and sale of man's best friend, with 300 to 400 strays illegally rounded up daily and culled.

"From our survey of 500 villagers in Tha Rae on July 18-19 we found that 79 percent want to continue eating and selling dog meat," Patchara Meeklang, assistant rector of the province's Rajabhat Institute, told AFP.

The survey showed that 62.8 percent of respondents regularly ate dog meat.

An estimated 300 people are involved in dog meat trading in Tha Rae, which exports up to 4,000 kg of dog meat across the country every day. *AFP*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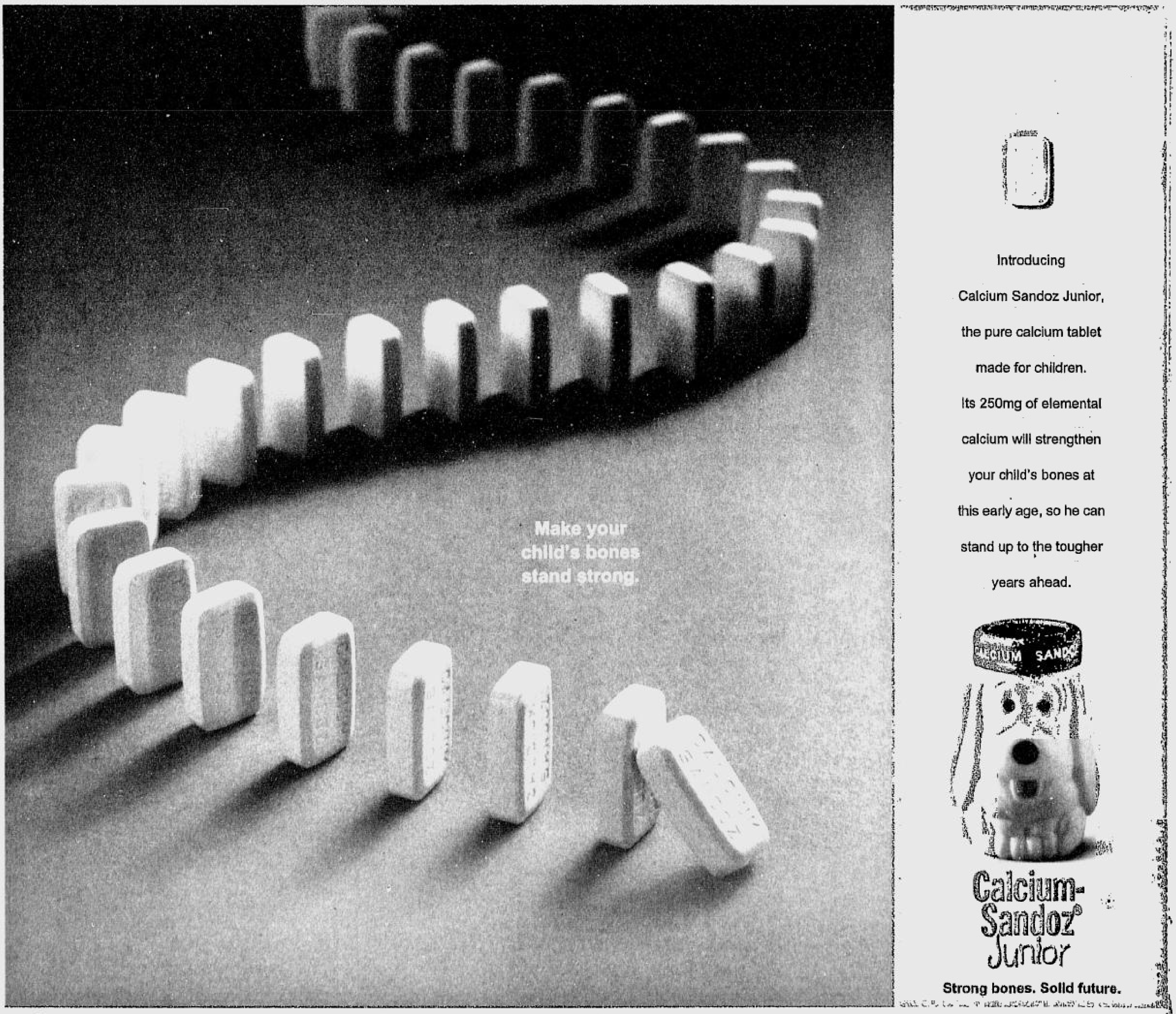
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NBI to probe Sarangani fund mess

By Aquiles Z. Zonio, *PDI-Mindanao Bureau*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation would start its investigation on the alleged irregularities in the disbursement of funds in the provincial government of Sarangani.

Sarangani Rep. Erwin Chiongbian said he asked the NBI to conduct an investigation to ascertain where the funds went and who were responsible for the mess.

"We cannot just close our eyes amidst this kind of anomaly," Chiongbian said. He said NBI investigators would start working on the case by next week.

Earlier, the Commission on Audit conducted a special audit and found out that as of December 31, 2002, the provincial government had a standing unliquidated expenses of P46.9 million. The INQUIRER got a copy of the COA report.

The audit was prompted by a request from the Ombudsman for Mindanao after receiving a complaint against three Capitol employees, including a daughter of Vice Gov. Felipe Constantino, for alleged fund anomalies.

The complainant, whose name was being kept under wraps, identified Amelia Carmela Constantino-Zoleta, also her father's chief of staff, Mary Ann Gadian, computer operator III and Sheryl Desiree Jane Tangan, clerk, as masterminds of the questionable releases of funds to various fictitious and non-existent cooperatives and people's organizations in the province.

Gadian and Tangan agreed to cooperate in the investigation after sensing they were being made sacrificial lambs.

Gadian told the INQUIRER that she was ordered to prepare the necessary documents and facilitate the approval of disbursement vouchers.

Gadian said the orders came from key provincial officials.

She executed a complaint-affidavit detailing the modus operandi and the hocus-pocus employed by the top provincial officials that led to the anomalous disbursements of public funds.

Among the provincial officials she and other witnesses implicated in the fund scam include Gov. Miguel Escobar, Vice Gov. Constantino and board members Margie Rudes, Eugene Alzate, Hernando Sibugan, Redempto Abiso, Teodorico Diaz, Juanito Purisima, Pyang Singcoy, Marlind Marcelo, Jesus Desidilla and Lelibeth Canillo.

Also named conspirators were provincial administrator Perla Maglinte, provincial accountant Maria Camanay and provincial treasurer Ceasar Cagang.

Escobar denied any involvement in the scam, saying he was just performing his ministerial function as chief executive of the province.

He vowed to support any effort to uncover those behind the reported anomaly.

Gadian told the INQUIRER that the figure unearthed by the COA was just the tip of an iceberg.

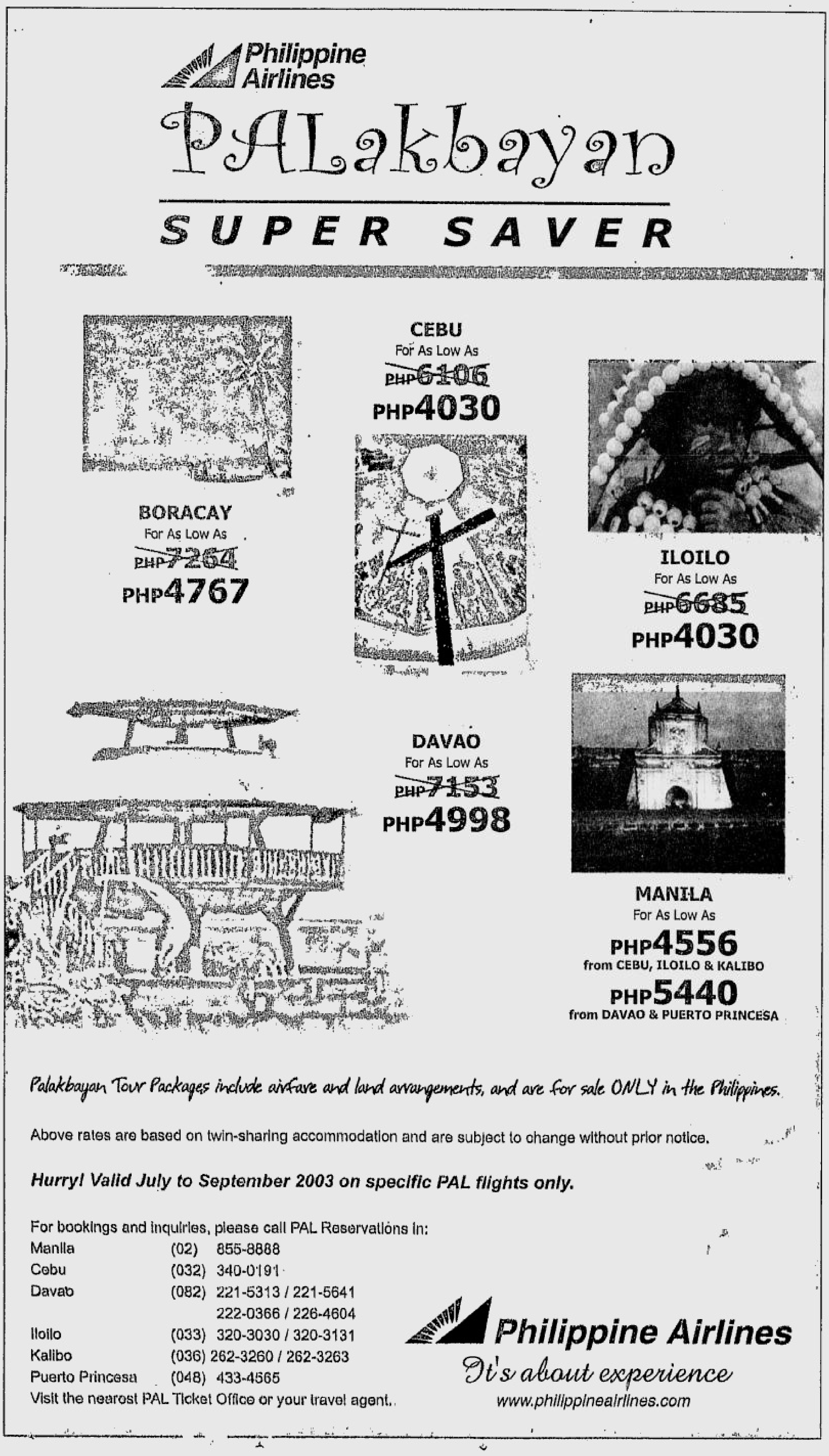
She estimated the total fund involved at about P61 million.

Meanwhile, Gadian and Tangan said they have to be on the run because of the threats they were receiving.

The INQUIRER learned that the COA and the provincial accountant office had also transferred to a secure place their documents after receiving a series of threat from unknown callers.

Chiongbian said he was already coordinating with the Department of Interior and Local Government for the immediate suspension of the accused officials.

Presidential consultant Paul Dominguez said the two vital witnesses had been placed under the Department of Justice's witness protection program.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Boat capsizes in Buliok; 2 social workers missing

By Jeffrey Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Two persons working for people displaced by the recent war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Maguindanao and North Cotabato remained missing after the banca they were riding in capsized in the turbulent Rio Grande de Mindanao, just a kilometer away from Barangay Bago Inged in Pikit, North Cotabato on Saturday.

Col. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade based in Pikit, North Cotabato, identified the missing relief workers as Mike Borromeo of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Theresa Marquez of the Manila-based Save the Children Foundation.

Borromeo and Marquez were with the group of Social Welfare Sec. Corazon Soliman, which visited the Buliok Complex, where evacuees have started to resettle after more than four months in various evacuation centers in Pikit and in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

Soliman graced the turnover of core shelters for the residents of the area.

"There were only 14 passengers on board the ill-fated motorized banca at that time," Dolorfino said.

The victims were supposed to head back to Barangay Bago Inged after visiting the former MILF lair when the boat, a 20-seater motorized banca, suddenly overturned.

Dolorfino said a passenger at the far end of the boat stood up, which rocked the boat that was then traversing the raging waters. A few minutes later, the boat capsized.

Most of the passengers swam to their safety but the turbulent water engulfed Marquez and Borromeo.

Dolorfino said they tried to rescue the two but were forced to call off the "dive" around 2 p.m. because of the strong current.

The 26-year-old volunteer from Cotabato City had been working with the Philippine office of the US-based Save the Children Foundation since April as administration and finance officer.

Belches said the incident was a sad experience for her group but that it would not deter them from continuing with their work in war-ravaged areas.

Rush probe of big fire, victims' kin urge

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon—Relatives of the 12 victims of a big fire incident on April 6 urged authorities to speed up their investigation even as they suspect the fire was deliberate.

Bro. Dionisio Jardinico of the Franciscan Friars of Charity said they were becoming impatient at the rate the investigation was going.

"We believe the tragedy that befell us was planned. We are getting hopeless with the ongoing investigatión of the local government agencies here (even) when evidence would show that the fire was a classic arson case," Jardinico said.

Jardinico's mother Catalina, 78, his brother Antonio with his two children aged six and two; his brother-in-law Gabriel Adecer with three of his five children; his aunt Consolacion and uncle Celedonio, Juvy Anne and a house help named Maricel died in the fire.

He said the fire that killed his kin and the househelp started at the first step of the wooden stairs leading to the second story of the house, where the victims were then sleeping.

"How can a fire start on the stairs? If it would have been due to faulty wiring then it should have started somewhere inside or some areas of the house but not on the stairs," Bro. Dionisio said.

The Jardinicos, Bro. Dionisio said, have been suspecting the fire, which razed 11 other houses, was started through the use of some chemicals.

He said the family believes the incident had something to do with the piece of land that their parents have been paying since 1988.

They heard that a food chain was interested to put up a building in the lot, Elvira Jardinico-Adecer, Gabriel's wife, told the INQUIRER.

Vice Mayor Leandro Catarata said the investigation was ongoing and that the City Council had asked the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct a separate probe.

Catarata said that contrary to the belief of the Jardinicos, authorities were pursuing the case.

He said the Bureau of Fire and Protection had already identified at least 13 suspects. *Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

₱1.2M worth of 'illegal' logs seized in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—Police and environment officials intercepted on Saturday four truckloads of red and white lawaan lumber from Samar, believed to have been illegally cut.

The team, led by police Chief Insp. Eduardo Chavez, Provincial Police Intelligence Chief and Lemuel Soriano, forester of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, seized a total of 40,271.47 board feet of lawaan lumber, worth about P1.2 million, during an operation in Barangay Cabid-an.

The lumber was shipped from Taft Avenue, Samar to D.S. Trading in Carmona, Cavite, according to Soriano.

Arrested along with the shipment were Rogelio Sonio, Fernando Velasco, Rosito Rosal, Antonio Fernandez, Feliciano Pabonan, Freymont Dumayra, Rodolfo Igdaluco and Marvin Paco, all from Catbalogan, Samar.

Soriano said the suspects failed to show a Department of Environment and Natural Resources permit, log or lumber marks, certificate of lumber origin and certificate of transport agreement. He said they will be charged with violation of Section 68 of the Presidential Decree 705 (Forestry Reform Code), as amended.

"They declared the shipment as copra in the Philippine Ports of Authority. Why not tell the truth if it's legal?" Soriano said.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is checking the authenticity of the other documents and will file a separate charge for falsification of public documents, according to Soriano.

The shipment was apprehended after the owner of the compound, where the trucks had parked without permission, reported to the police about their presence. The seized lumbers are now in the custody of the police, Soriano said.

"This is the biggest apprehension (of illegally cut logs) in the history of Sorsogon," he added. *Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rate audit of 4 power firms sought

TARLAC CITY—The Regional Development Council (RDC) of Central Luzon has sought a rate audit of four private electric companies operating in key cities in Central Luzon to determine whether these companies "fairly charged their consumers."

The resolution came in the wake of the Supreme Court decision asking the Manila Electric Co. to refund some P28.15 billion to its concessionaires.

Jesus David, chair of the consumers sector of the RDC said the council is asking the Commission on Audit to undertake the audit to ascertain if the four firms have overcharged their customers.

David said these four firms who are members of the Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association and who have about 60,000 customers, have likely patterned their operations from the Meralco model.

They may have committed the same error as that of Meralco, particularly in treating their income taxes as part of their operational expenses, he said.

Named in the RDC resolution are the Cabanatuan Electric Corp., Angeles Electric Corp., the San Fernando Electric Co. and the Tarlac Enterprises Inc (TEI). *Jo Clemente, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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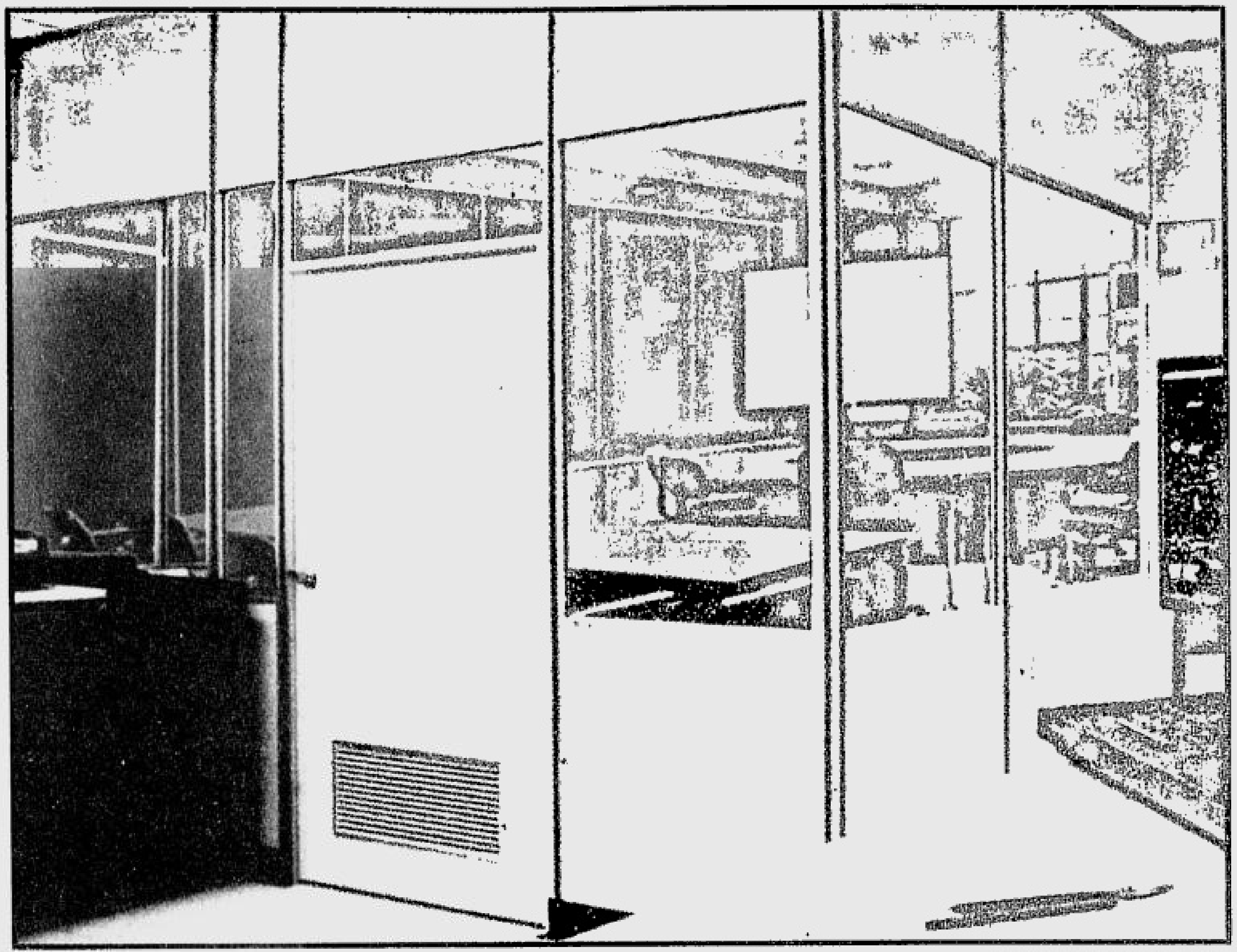

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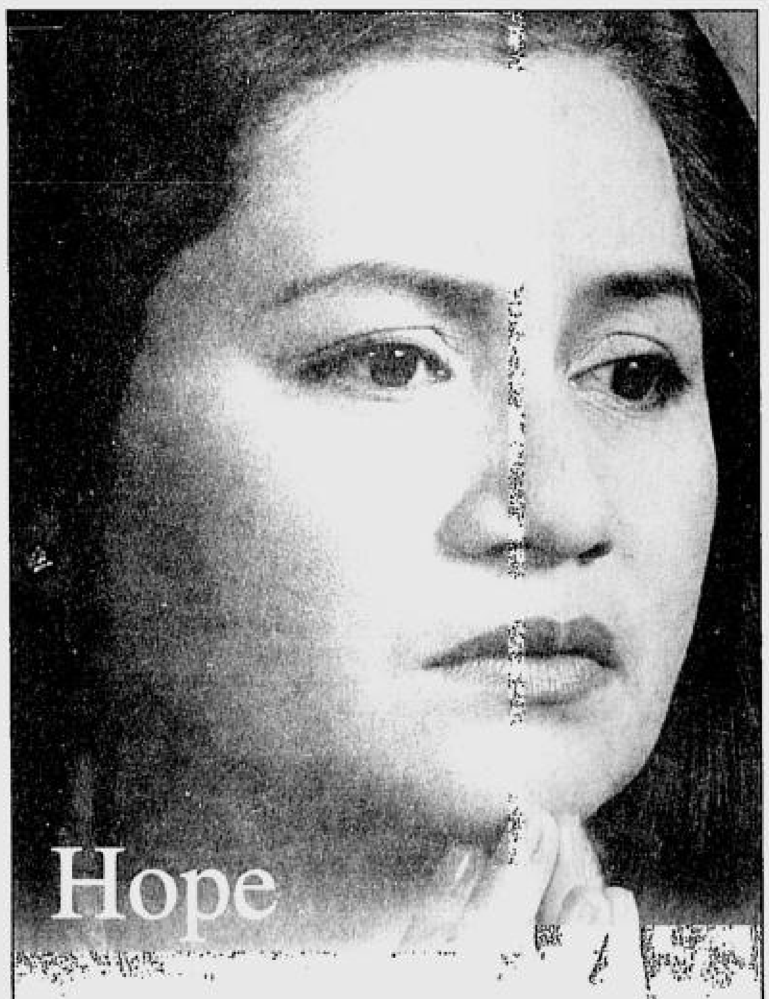

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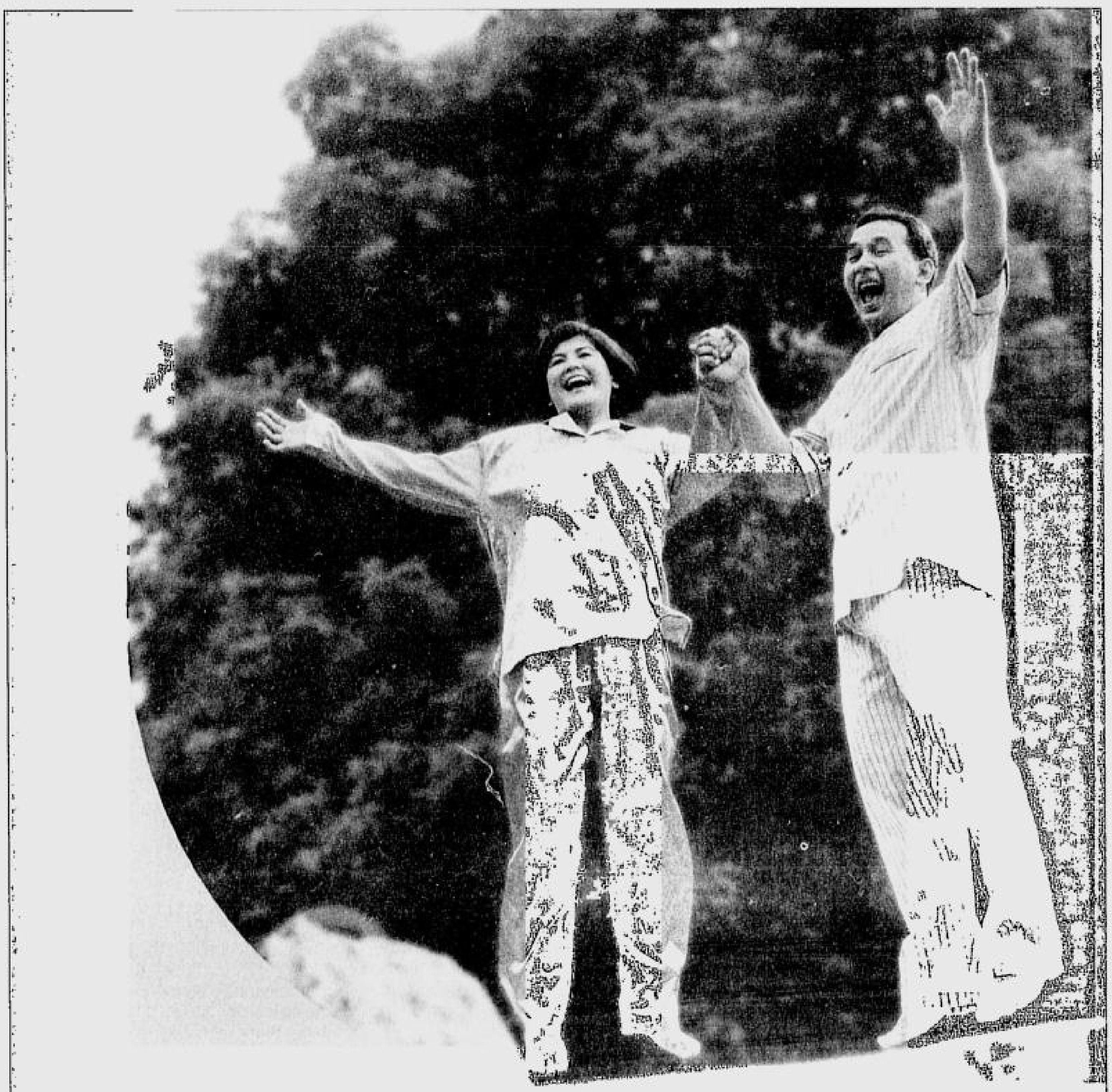

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NPA owns up to slay of Army officer, 2 soldiers

BACOLOD CITY—The New People's Army has owned up to the ambush-slay of a junior Army officer and two soldiers in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental last Aug. 6.

In a statement, JB Regalado, spokesperson of the NPA's Leonardo Panaligan Command, said an "oversized" rebel squad carried out the ambush that killed 1Lt. Glesson Regner, Sgt. Edwin Allin and Private Dionaldo Javier.

Regalado claimed that 11th Infantry Battalion Charlie Company soldiers stationed in Canlaon City were used as "private goons" of a family in Negros Oriental.

He also enumerated the alleged abuses committed by the 11th IB in central Negros since 1986, among them, torture, harassments, arson and robbery.

Regner and three of his security escorts were on their way to Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, to deliver the combat boots of militiamen, when they were ambushed by the NPA guerrillas in Barangay Linuthangan, Canlaon.

The soldiers were in civilian clothes and were riding a service vehicle of the Canlaon City government, during the ambush.

SPO4 Wilfredo Villoria, deputy police chief of Canlaon City, said the rebels had positioned themselves on high grounds in the highway of Barangay Linuthangan for the ambush.

Villoria said Javier died while being treated for his bullet wounds at the Canlaon City District Hospital.

In Baguio City, two NPA rebels were killed during a military operation in Bontoc, Mt. Province on Friday, according to Lt. Col. Dacy Marinias, commanding officer of the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion. He said the rebels were killed during an aerial attack made by two military helicopters in Barangay Upper Mainit in Bontoc.

Army officials have yet to identify the slain rebels at press time.

Friday's casualties brought to seven the number of rebels killed since government soldiers started the operations on Aug. 5 in Mainit and Dalican villages.

On July 14, NPA rebels ambushed a group of soldiers in Barangay Talubin in Bontoc. Eight soldiers were killed in the attack.

In Abra, two gunmen shot and killed a barangay captain in Bangued town on Saturday afternoon.

Police said one of the suspects even waved goodbye to the crowd after they gunned down Nestor Belisario Sr., barangay captain of Zone 6.

Belisario, known as "Angin" (air) in his barangay, was the younger brother of Peping Belisario, the main suspect in the murder of Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren in Laguna last year.

Reports said Belisario was inside a store in Bangued when the suspects, aboard a motorcycle, arrived and shot him. A female cashier was also hurt during the attack.

The gunmen, said to be in their teens, then casually walked out of the store and sped off in their motorcycle. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bohol solons puzzled by low tourism revenues

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Despite the much-ballyhooed boom in the tourism industry, provincial lawmakers are at a loss on why the Chocolate Hills Complex in Carmen town is not making money.

This surfaced even as the provincial board committee on tourism reported that as of April this year, the complex posted a net income of P652,941.12 that is "comparably higher than the previous months."

According to the report read by provincial board member Ester Corazon Galbreath, tourism committee chair, toll fees posted a remarkably higher rate of P224,125 during the period when there was a widespread report about the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome worldwide.

Restaurants

The report, however, revealed that restaurant and hostel operation posted a net of only P65,816.94. This "could be further enhanced by providing fast foods and catering services in the restaurant," the report added.

During the regular session on Monday, several provincial board members asked why the complex was not making money as expected.

According to Provincial board member Felix Uy, Kagawad Estanislao Camacho had told him that the Sagbayan Peak, a private venture of the Torrefranca family that includes Mayor Jimmy Torrefranca, was actually making money "despite being a second option only" to the complex in Carmen.

Sagbayan lease

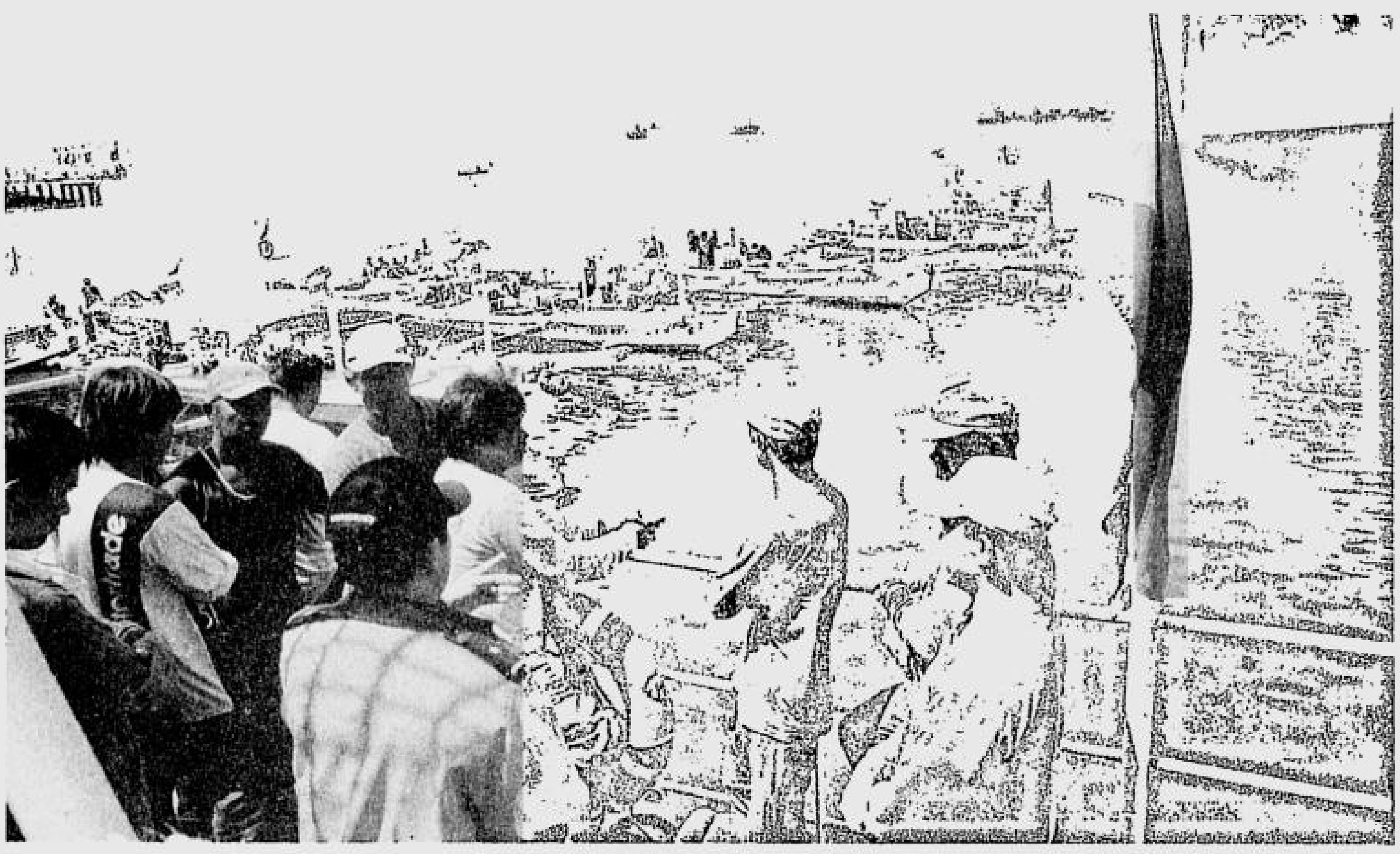
Camacho acknowledged Uy's observation. Provincial board member Tomas Abapo Jr. said a trader had approached him to express interest in leasing the complex for P1 million a month.

Most of the provincial board members were initially taken aback by Abapo's information but most eventually remarked that the idea of leasing the complex would be a better idea than have it managed by the municipal government.

Abapo pointed out that while the Chocolate Hills remains a breathtaking sight that never ceases to amaze guests and visitors, it has remained "a 15-minute affair."

He said that visitors to the complex stay for only 15 minutes to view the spectacular sight and then leave.

The best thing to do, he said, is to develop the place to make visitors stay longer.



ILLEGAL FISHING

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN/PDI PHOTO

The Philippine Coast Guard arrested 30 fishermen with their 21 motorized bancas northwest of Sangley Point in Cavite for using "trawl," an illegal way of fishing inside the 15 kilometers of the shoreline.

Abandoned airport declared housing site for poor

LUCENA CITY—Close to 1,000 families would soon have a house and lot of their own as President Macapagal-Arroyo finally declared that the more than 17-hectares of abandoned airstrip and its adjacent government land located at Barangay Ibabang Iyam as housing site for the city's poor and government employees.

Presidential Proclamation 436 dated Aug. 11, 2003 and signed by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo also declared that portions of the area would serve as a place for government institutions and facilities.

Naty Veloso, president of United Landing Urban Poor Association, a federation of six urban poor associations long residing in the place, said the presidential proclamation is "a Christmas gift come true."

"Year after year, we've been asking the government to grant the place to us as a Christmas gift. There were times that we're always near, but unfortunately, every time (there is) change in the national leadership, we have to start again the tedious documentation works only to write the name of the present president in renewed correspondence," she recalls.

Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said "after 14 years and four presidents, the city government and the urban poor settlers in that former airport have been working together to make this moment a reality. It's only during the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo that this cherished dream has been finally realized."

The presidential proclamation has apportioned the site as follows: Air Transportation Office employees housing—2.5 hectares; government institution and facilities—4.1 hectares; and housing for government employees and urban poor—11 hectares.

Malacañang has created an inter-agency committee led by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council with representatives of the urban poor association in the area to formulate the implementing rules and regulations in the proposed housing site.

More than 700 poor families were living alongside the vast empty strip of the unused runway, some for as long as 30 years. Most of the settlers were victims of disasters, such as typhoons and flashfloods.

The 1,000-meter-long airstrip now serves as a training ground for student drivers, especially on weekends.

Talaga said the government also planned to resettle other urban poor settlers from the city who are living in danger zones such as riverbanks. He said some 200 poor families and still undetermined government employees would be accommodated.

He said the site would also be the place for a government center for national and local offices, aside for the construction of a sports complex for the city. He said the Lucena City College building will also be transferred in the new site as he expect the rise of the student population in the coming years due to its low tuition. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Dumaguete to ban 'wet and wild' shows

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The city council is set to amend the Revised Nightclub Ordinance to include a ban on all "wet 'n wild" shows and for producers to show less skin in bikini shows.

These are among the measures proposed by the committee on women and family life of the city council following the outcry over the holding of the June 21st Bikini Open at the El Camino Restaurant.

Councilor Myrish Antonio, committee chair, reported to the city council last Thursday that they have completed their investigation of the incident. The investigations resulted from a complaint filed by the reigning Ms Dumaguete, Liana Basmayor, and her mother.

The Basmayors, who had attended the June 21st Bikini Open after Liana was invited as one of the judges for the affair, walked out of the show after a contestant poured beer over the thin covering on her body, exposing her "private parts."

Vice Gov. Jose Baldado, chair of the board of judges, relinquished his chairmanship after noting that "the ladies' movements became very suggestive and their attires were questionable as they seemed to evoke something."

"It was clear from the hearings conducted that the Bikini Open was objectionable vis-a-vis our basic standards of decency and morality," Antonio said.

She said what made the show scandalous was the pouring of beer on the clothing of the girls, which exposed their private parts and the use of laced clothing that was too skimpy as well as their "lewd" actuations as they walked and danced on the ramp.

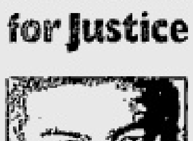
To ensure that such objectionable shows will not be held, Antonio's committee proposes to have all participants in bikini open shows "dressed in decent attire."

Very skimpy bikinis, thongs and lacy two-piece attires "which tend to reveal the women's private parts," are strictly prohibited.

BIKINI OPEN
14
22

The proposed amendments to the Nightclub Ordinance will be presented before the city council this week.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 462 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

2 radiomen accuse Capiz cop chief of berating them

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Two radio reporters have accused Senior Supt. Efren Quintos, Capiz police director, of berating them and of challenging them to a fist fight when they went to his office last Aug. 11.

Allan Catalan and Nimbe de la Cruz, both reporters of dyOW Bombo Radyo, alleged that Quintos called them names during a meeting at the police officer's office at Camp Teodorico C. Apil in Barangay Lonoy.

"Who is Catalan? We might as well engage in a fist fight to end all this," the reporters quoted Quintos as saying in Filipino.

Quintos told the INQUIRER that he was piqued by Catalan's "unprofessionalism," particularly on the insinuation that his men were in the payroll of drug lords in Capiz.

But he denied he berated the two reporters and called them names like *gago* (stupid) as claimed by Catalan and De La Cruz.

The two reporters believed that Quintos was piqued by Bombo's report about his impending relief.

The dyOW Bombo Radyo had been tackling Quintos' possible relief as Capiz police director since last week.

Catalan said he repeatedly called up Quintos over the phone to clarify the issue but was told by an aide that Quintos was either in a bathroom or was out of town.

"That's why I personally went to him (Quintos) to get his side," Catalan explained.

The two reporters went to Quintos' office last Aug. 11 and were reportedly made to wait for two hours. When the police official finally saw them, he allegedly lost his cool and shouted at them.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, police director for Western Visayas, denied reports that Quintos would be relieved.

Quintos is considered the most controversial police director of Capiz particularly after he adopted a strong stance in the campaign against illegal drugs in Capiz.

He launched the Philippine National Police Text Hotline, urging Capiceños to help police authorities identify drug pushers and users in the community.

The campaign, covering January to May, resulted in 23 anti-drug operations and the arrest of 29 suspects.

A total of 124.17 grams of shabu was also recovered from the suspects, 17.4 grams more than what was confiscated in the same period last year.

ROUNDUP

Voters list-up today

SAN PABLO CITY—The Commission on Elections has set its schedule of registration and validation of the list of voters for the 2004 Computerized Elections in this city at 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today. City election officer Myrna Guillermo said the registration will be held at the new Comelec city office at the ground floor of the 8-storey building in the City Hall Complex. Qualified as new registrants are those who will reach 18 years old on May 10 next year. Voters registered as of July 14 must again register for validation for them to be included in the coming computerized electoral process. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Cop shoots man

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—An allegedly drunken Mimaropa policeman based in Canlubang, Laguna shot a man in Barangay Langkaan in this town on Monday. Police identified the victim as Willy Peñalosa, 40, of City Homes Resort Ville, and the suspect as PO1 Geraldo de los Santos. Authorities said the suspect, who was under the influence of liquor, shot the victim, hitting him on his chest. Peñalosa was in critical condition at J. P. Rizal Hospital as of press time. De los Santos, who voluntarily surrendered himself and his 9mm pistol, is now in jail. ***Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Mall shooting

LIPA CITY—A heated argument over mall security policies ended into a bloody clash that left two security guards critically injured at the Fiesta Mall in Barangay Marauoy on Thursday. Police said Rodrigo Montelijao, assistant coordinator at the Fiesta World Mall, and Robert Fundal, operations manager of the MBD Security Agency, were arguing over security policies in the mall when Montelijao pulled out his .38-caliber revolver and shot Fundal. Fundal was hit in his nape and left side of his body. Another security guard, Reynaldo Aldia, who witnessed the argument, went back to the security guards' barracks and came back with his .9 mm pistol and shot Montelijao, hitting him on the left side of his body. Fundal and Montelijao were rushed to the hospital. Aldia is now in police custody. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Killed in ambush

VIRAC, Catanduanes—An investigator of the Pandan Municipal Police Office was killed in an ambush while on his way home to neighboring Caramoran town. Catanduanes police director Senior Supt. Walberto Mandin identified the victim as SPO2 Pedro Roselyn. Roselyn, according to Mandin, was sprayed with bullets by a group of heavily armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army. The suspects fled towards different directions after the incident. Roselyn's body was brought to the Pandan Municipal Hospital for autopsy while Army soldiers and police launched a hot pursuit operation against the fleeing rebels. ***Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Pushers nabbed

BACOOR, Cavite—Three members of the notorious "Waray-waray Gang" operating in Cavite and three other suspected drug pushers were arrested Tuesday midnight after a buy-bust operation in Barangay Panapaan 4. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal identified the suspects as Roger Hagonoy, 38, resident of the place; Bando Isidro, 22, of Barangay San Nicholas 1; and Jerry Amaro, 29, of Barangay Merville, Parañaque. Caringal said Amaro was arrested in the act of selling shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to an intelligence officer who acted as a poseur buyer. Police found several sachets containing shabu and shabu paraphernalia. Police also caught suspects Jocelyn Ada, 29, of Pasig City; Noel Lipata, 20, of San Pedro, Laguna; and Michael Nunggay, 24, of Caloocan City in the act of repacking shabu. Recovered from them were three sachets containing shabu and a .38-caliber revolver. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Meeting of reporter, plotters probed

From page A1

was Perez's encounter with the alleged coup plotters while the state of rebellion was still in effect that the President raised when she met with GMA officials on Saturday night.

In a terse statement, the network said Ms Macapagal came to its Quezon City studios to clarify that Malacañang "never intended to pursue legal action against Panganiban-Perez."

But the opposition in the Senate said the President's behavior was nothing less than an attempt by Malacañang to intimidate and harass the working press.

If reports were true that the President had scolded Perez for interviewing Honasan, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said, then the President's action was "unpresidential" and "uncalled for."

"I think the President is under a state of paranoia. She imagines that by interviewing Honasan, that person must be involved," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

Pimentel said there was no basis for gagging Perez because in the first place, Honasan was not even a fugitive from the law. Besides, he added, Ms Macapagal was not a queen and "we're not living in the Middle Ages."

Network statements

The first statement quoted network CEO Felipe Gozon as being appreciative of the President's gesture and giving the assurance that the "network will continue to act responsibly." A second statement described the "tone of the meeting" as "cordial and clarificatory."

Jimenez said Ms Macapagal was curious as to why Perez went out of her way to talk to Honasan while refusing to interview Southern Luzon military commander Alfonso Dagudag, who was part of the President's entourage on the trip to Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro.

"We did not hound her to talk to Dagudag. We felt that since other TV channels interviewed Dagudag, we were concerned that she would miss out on this. So I talked to her as a friend," Jimenez said.

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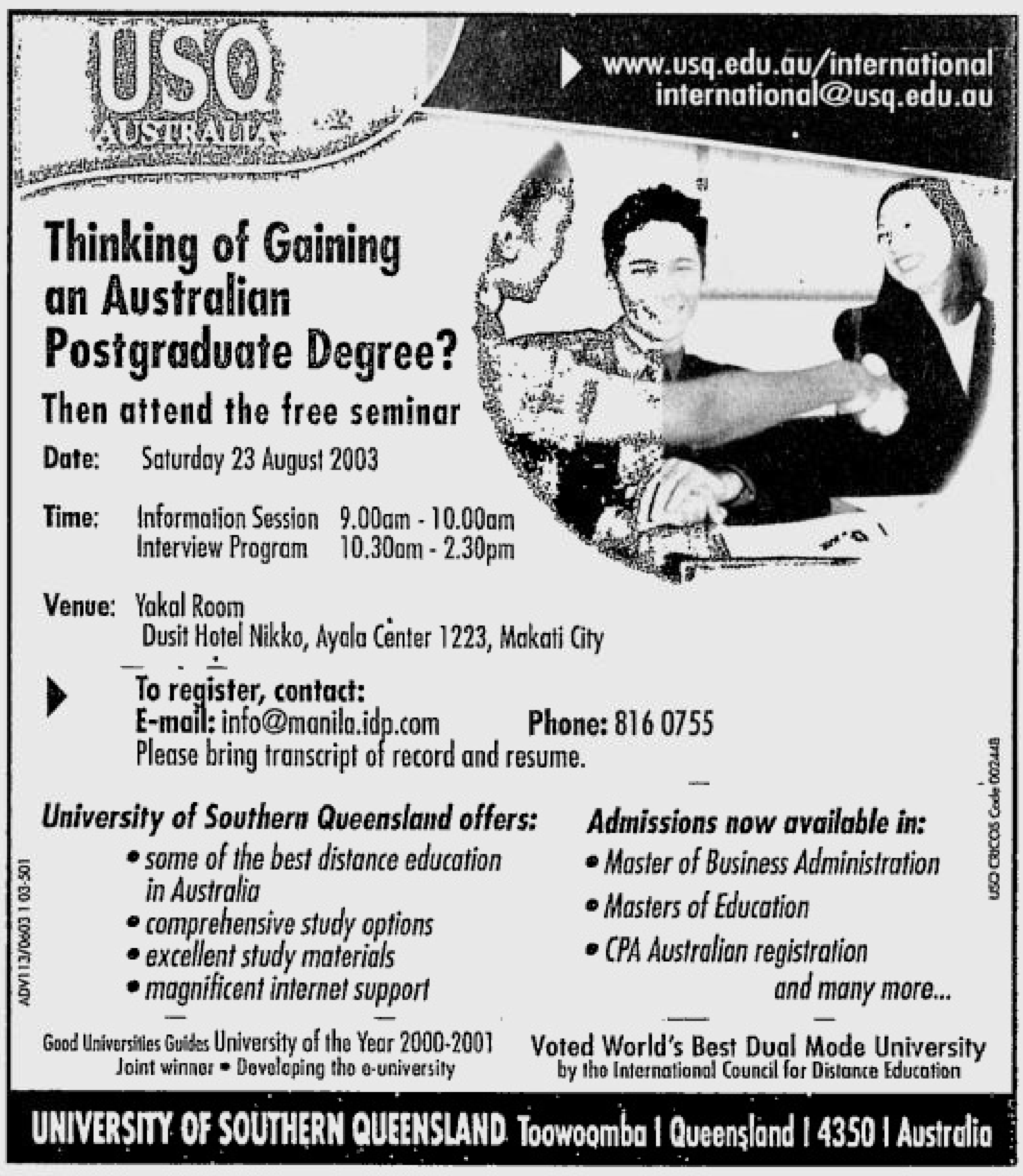
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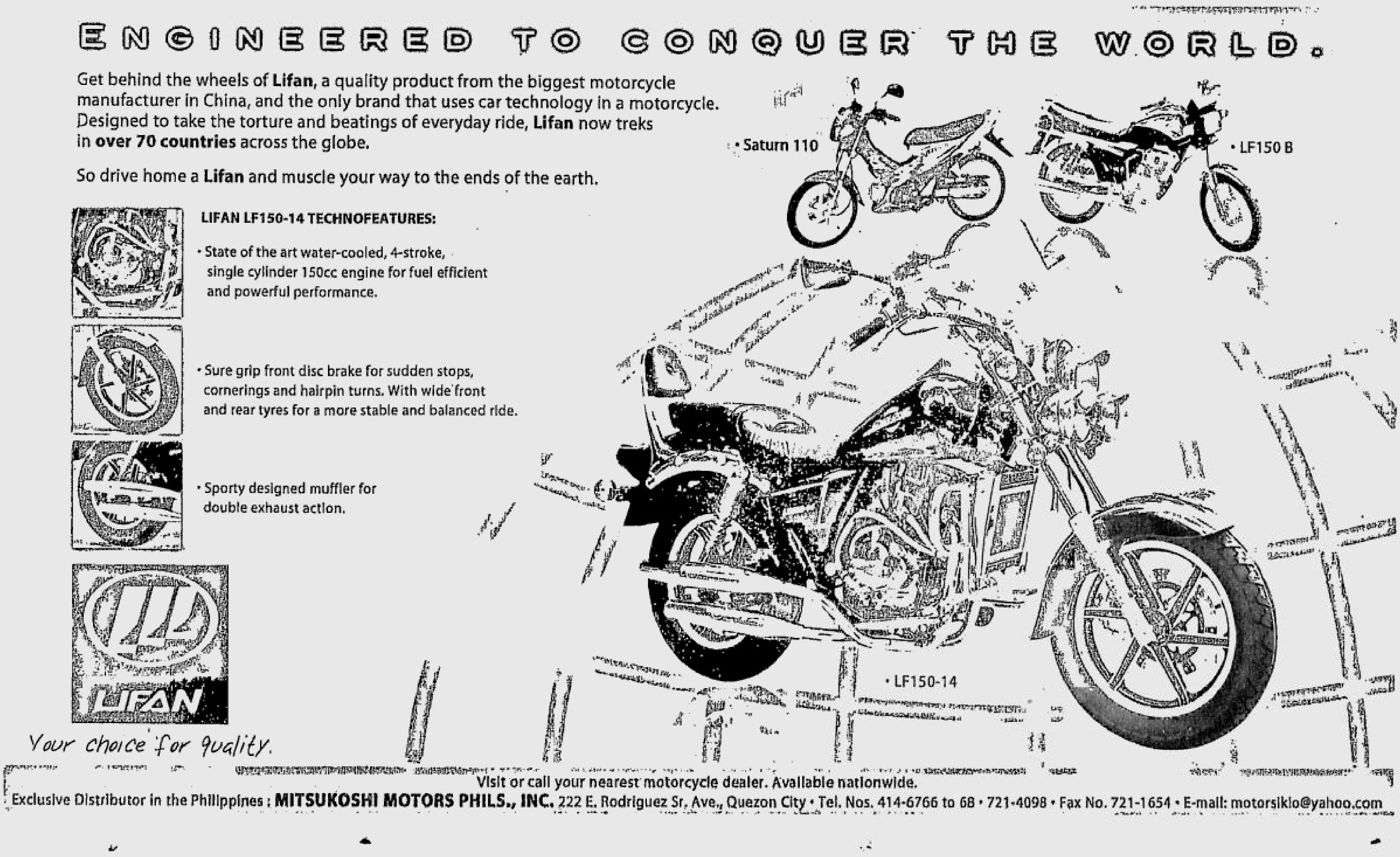
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How Ninoy got valid passport

From page A1

learned I had been posted in New Orleans and sought me out," Ampeso told the INQUIRER when he came to Manila for a brief vacation. "He said he needed a passport and he asked for my help."

Ampeso said Aquino called him up to set an appointment for them to meet in New York. In a Manhattan coffee shop, Aquino asked Ampeso if he could arrange a passport for him because he was already feeling "the heat in the US."

"He was already feeling restless. I had to give it to him," Ampeso said.

Eastern Samar Gov. Raul Daza, a ranking member of the anti-Marcos movement in the United States at that time, said Aquino had to travel to touch base with Marcos opposition leaders in other countries.

"There were supporters of the Philippine opposition in other places abroad. He was invited to deliver speeches and he used these as opportunities to rally support for the opposition," Daza told the INQUIRER.

Ampeso knew that Aquino's passport could not go through the usual consular process. The then Ministry of Foreign Affairs had issued an order to all diplomatic posts to deny all passport and visa applications by all known foes of the Marcos regime.

"I told him to ask Roque Ablan, his batch-mate in the fraternity and his closest link to Marcos, to ask the President for clearance," Ampeso said.

"Shortly thereafter, Roque came back to me with instructions from the President. His words were to give Ninoy whatever he needs," he said.

No red tape

Ampeso said that aside from the application form Aquino signed, the process involved no bureaucratic red tape, "only person-to-person agreements all the way up to Malacañang."

"Even then Ambassador to Washington Benjamin 'Kokoy' Romualdez didn't have an idea. I guess Marcos didn't talk to him about Ninoy's request for a passport," Ampeso said.

Ampeso would not reveal how the "ingenious" process he used escaped the scrutiny of ministry officials. He said he gave Aquino his valid passport in July 1983.

"Suffice it to say that computerization would have prevented what I did to ensure that the passport was validly issued without anyone from the DFA, the embassy in Washington and the people in New Orleans noticing," Ampeso said.

But an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs (the old name came back into use in 1987) said it was quite easy for Ampeso to have pulled off the trick.

"It was possible that he enlisted the help of other consulate staff with anti-Marcos sympathies," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

"Each step in the processing of a passport entails checks and counter-checks from the signing and scrutiny of the application form to the encryption of the applicant's name and photo in the travel document," the source added.

"Ampeso could not have done it on his own," the DFA source said.

Until now, the DFA has yet to trace where the passport was actually issued. It was released and signed by Ampeso in New Orleans, but the consulate did not report any passport missing and all those released were accounted for and issued to Filipinos other than Aquino.

Return journey

Ampeso signed the document and released the passport to Aquino in a meeting at the John F. Kennedy airport in New York a month before he eventually started his journey back to the Philippines.

"Diplomats in the US, including Rod Severino (consul general in Houston, Texas, who would become Asean secretary general), were monitoring his movement from one country to another. We wanted to know where he went each time he would move," Ampeso said.

"I never sensed that he would use the passport for anything illegal. But I started to worry when I learned that he already wanted to go home by August," he added.

Daza said Aquino wanted to hurry home because he was afraid Marcos would soon succumb to his kidney problems, which had taken a turn for the worse in mid-1983.

"(Aquino) wanted to prevent a power vacuum. He said there would be anarchy if Marcos died and no one was immediately available to take over," Daza said.

He said he and Aquino last met with "a handful of friends" at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles a few days before the former senator went on to his trip home.

"It was in that meeting where he told us he was going home. He said that he had information that Marcos was in grave danger of death," Daza said in a telephone interview from the Eastern Samar provincial capitol.

"I asked him if he was running for president. He said he was not," Daza said. "He said he wanted Doy (Salvador Laurel) to be the one."

Ablan, on the other hand, said Aquino was suffering from his own health problems as a result of his heart condition.

"He didn't want to die a Harvard lecturer in Boston. He wanted to die in the Philippines," Ablan said in the same interview the INQUIRER conducted with Ampeso.

"Marcos wanted Aquino to come home at a later time. Marcos himself was sick so he said, 'Tell him to postpone his trip because I wouldn't be able to protect him,'" Ablan said.

Ampeso said his decision to help Aquino get a passport was never a political question.

"I was and still am just a civil servant," he said. "I could not involve myself in politics particularly at that time. Otherwise I'd have found myself caught in between two powerful forces even if I have fraternal ties to both."

Why did he finally decide to issue Aquino his passport?

"He wanted to be free. And he was entitled to it," Ampeso said.

Not to mention the fact that the dictator had given the green light.

Marcial's final days recalled

By Martin Andanar
Contributor

IT WAS Aug. 20, 1983 when Charlie Avila, lawyer Raul Daza, Serge Osmeña and party drove Ninoy Aquino to Los Angeles International Airport for his return flight to Manila via Taipei.

The opposition leader traveled under the fictitious name of "Marcial Bonifacio," a name he said suited him since he was incarcerated under Ferdinand Marcos' "martial" rule in Fort "Bonifacio."

Avila acted as the ex-senator's assistant in Boston, where Aquino was living in exile. He remembers Aquino as firm in his resolve to fight for a peaceful transition in the Philippines, despite the growing number of his moderate colleagues who were already leaning toward violence. "Sonny Alvarez and I suggested to Ninoy to quickly slip into the country, take pictures, make announcements and slip out just to boost the morale of the movement (just like what Sihanouk did in Cambodia)."

Instead, Avila recalled, "Aquino declined and said, 'They would have to shoot me in the head.' Ninoy did not want to be associated with (the) underground movement that was inciting violence. He would rather face them bravely…"

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'Pot-pot' boys …

From page A1

the honking of bicycles driven by kids hawking freshly baked *pan de sal*.

"It's really pan de 'soul,'" said Fr. Bong Javines, SDB, director of the Don Bosco Pugad Home for Street Children and Migrant Youth. "They are disadvantaged youth. Each *pan de sal* sold will help give them a new lease on life."

The "pot-pot" boys are residents of Pugad inside the St. John Bosco Parish Church grounds on Pasay Road and Amorsolo Street. They do not merely sell the bread; they also bake them.

Guests at Saturday's launch—politicians, chefs, gourmets, charity benefactors, businessmen and media people—were unanimous in their verdict: the Pugad boys' take on the consummate Pinoy bun passed the taste test with flying colors.

"The perfect *pan de sal* is crunchy on the outside, soft and buttery on the inside, and must have a hint of burnt wood from the oven smoke," explained food critic Nancy Reyes. She declared the Pugad *pan de sal* a winner, especially "with its giveaway price" of P1.30 apiece.

The guests, including Makati Rep. Teddy Locsin and Social Welfare Undersecretary Lualhati Pablo, munched their *pan de sal* through a witty array of spreads that ranged from the lowly to the homey to the inventive, including condensed milk, *hamon, queso de bola*, homemade sardines, and herb pesto.

In their nightmarish lives, the boys never dreamed of such a feast.

Gerald was in Grade 6 when he started work in a gold mine. Every day, he crawled 100 meters down into the earth in his native Antamok, Itogon in Benguet. After an hour, he reached the desired depth where, with a tiny flashlight strapped to his forehead, he carved out walls with gold traces off tiny tunnels.

Once his sack was half-filled—he could not carry a full load of 50 kilos—he crawled up to ground level. By the time he emerged—an apparition of sweat, mud and bruises—the sun had set.

Another boy, Vicente, took a man's job at 8 years old. With four friends, he would walk four hours up the jungles of Sibuyan, Romblon, where lumberjacks waited with freshly cut trees for them to carry back. The kids would drag these down the mountain over muck and mud, across creeks and a river, on to the dusty highway and into town. Vicente was lucky to be paid P50 for this backbreaking labor.

To be sure, the other wards could relate no less harrowing tales. "That's why we call this place Pugad, Filipino for 'nest,'" said Javines. "We welcome youths with broken wings."

Early this year, while having a breakfast of *pan de sal*, Javines wondered how much they could save if they baked their own bread, since Pugad housed as many as 100 youths at a time. Earlier, a benefactor had donated a commercial oven to the center, but no one knew what to do with it.

Enter Marian Catedral, Caltex Philippines' corporate affairs manager, and a parishioner. "I was excited at their proposal," she recalled. "Unlike other projects of the Caltex Fund (for children), I saw that this one … would eventually stand on its own." The firm signed on as partner.

At the launch, Ramil de la Cruz—volunteer coordinator for migrant youths, resident cook and now, master baker—received not only congratulations but also a lot of orders, one of them from a fashionable coffee shop for daily deliveries.

"De la Cruz (formulated) the recipe, but the kids are in charge of operations," explained Javines. He described the activity as "a hands-on practicum on entrepreneurship, business management, professionalism and life."

Tim Leveille, Caltex country chair, said the partnership was a reflection of his firm's "strong commitment to community partnership."

Roel Polancos, program coordinator, saw it as a step toward helping even the boys' families.

Indeed, for at least two of the boys, it was a compelling inspiration. Peejee and Genero, teenagers from Davao, wondered how much an oven would cost. "*Kahit po* second-hand *lang*?"

Swiss gov't probes $2-M Nani account

From page A1

quired funds.

The Philippines is one of more than 10 countries that the FATF deems uncooperative in the fight against money laundering. Amendments to the year-old anti-money laundering law that Congress approved in March could remove the country from the FATF watch list either late this year or early next year.

"The government, especially the Anti-Money Laundering Council must cooperate with the Swiss government in their investigation. Otherwise, it could be a point against the country's bid to be removed from the watch list," a Cabinet official said.

No basis

"I was not aware of any accusation by the Swiss government. And neither was I involved in any money laundering activities. The Swiss government has no basis for that," Perez said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday afternoon.

Perez, who resigned as justice secretary on Jan. 2 amid accusations that he extorted money from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, said he knew where the accusation was coming from.

Jimenez, a former adviser of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was extradited to the United States in December last year on charges of illegal contributions to the Democratic Party, tax evasion and mail fraud.

"I think there is a group that sent the papers to the Swiss government to pin me down," said Perez, now the Cabinet officer for regional development for Southern Tagalog, who had just been to a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

He said none of the people in Malacañang had informed him of the investigation being conducted by Swiss authorities. He said he only learned about it from the INQUIRER.

Perez was irked upon learning that the story would be coming out in the INQUIRER today. "*Kung lalabas pala ito bukas, para ano pa itong usapan natin*? (If it's still coming out in the papers tomorrow, what's the use of this conversation?)," he said.

Extortion

In November last year, Jimenez accused Perez of extorting from him $2 million.

In a privileged speech, Jimenez said the extortion happened in his house in Forbes Park, Makati, in 2001, on the third week of January.

Jimenez said Perez had demanded that he execute an affidavit against cronies of Estrada, which would be used against them if they would not support President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

The congressman said that when he refused, Perez cursed and threatened him in front of his wife.

It was Escaler who came up with a proposition that he should just pay up $2 million, to which Perez agreed, according to Jimenez.

Jimenez said the $2 million was wired on Feb. 23, 2001 from his account with the Trade and Commerce Bank in Uruguay to Account No. 13706 in Coutts Bank in Hong Kong. The account allegedly belonged to Escaler.

Last Aug. 1,

PEREZ

Jimenez pleaded guilty to two counts of tax evasion and one count of election financing fraud before a federal court in Miami, Florida. He agreed to serve at least 21 months in prison.

It was not clear whether the $2-million Perez account in a Swiss bank, which is being investigated by the Swiss government, is also the alleged Jimenez payoff to Perez.

Coutts & Co. AG in Zurich is one of more than 400 banks operating in Switzerland. The money could have been wired from Hong Kong to a Swiss account, according to a president of a Philippine bank.

"But just because it was the same amount doesn't mean that it was the same case. The $2 million under question by Swiss authorities may not necessarily be related to the alleged Jimenez payoff," a Cabinet official said.

Swiss banks are famous for sophistication and discreetness. The Swiss banking system considers it a serious offense to divulge information about any bank customer to a third party, including official requests of foreign governments except in some very special and clearly defined situations.

The Swiss government, however, has designed strict laws to prevent money laundering. A Swiss bank is required to know its clients sufficiently well to ensure that funds being placed on deposit are unlikely to come from illegal activities.

Most banks require a personal interview before agreeing to open an account.

"Only Swiss attorneys may open an account on behalf of another person; no other third-party accounts are allowed, and Swiss attorneys must follow the same standards as Swiss banks," says a primer on Swiss banks posted on the Internet.

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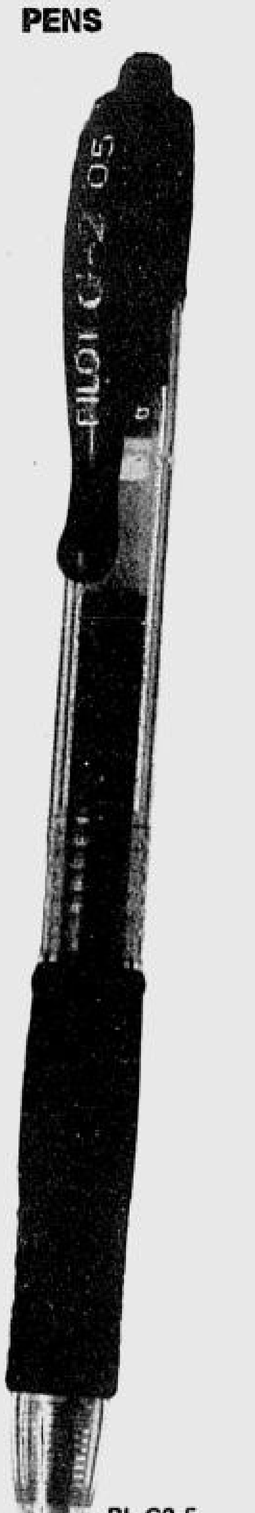
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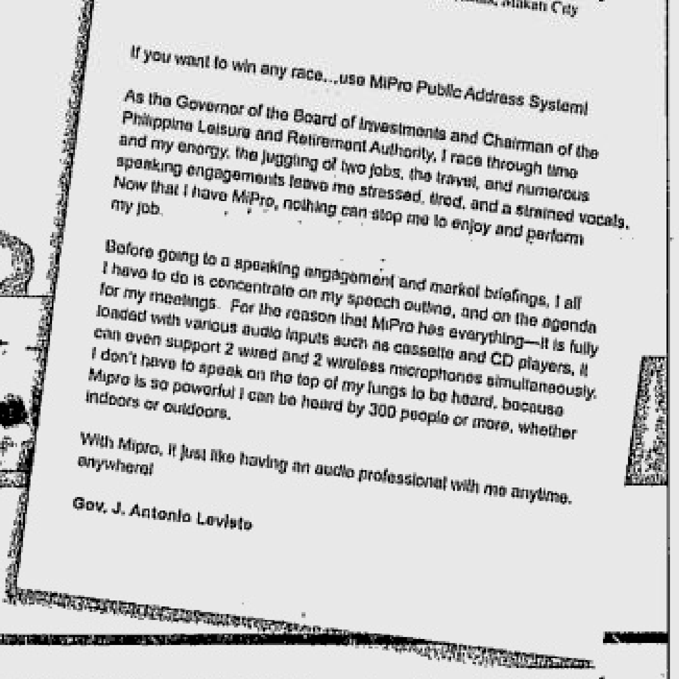

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Mutiny in Makati ended with surrender document

From page A1

government to use all legal weapons—whatever they are technically described—to defend itself and crush the enemies of the state that was clearly being attacked by armed men in uniform.

Explaining the ambiguity over the agreement requires examining the context of events during which the negotiations took place. When Cimatu walked into Oakwood to talk with the renegades, it was past the 5 p.m. deadline for the rebels to lay down their arms set by the President. Cimatu's mission was to defuse the standoff and had instructions to "avoid a bloody resolution."

No surprise at all

It does not surprise me at all—and those who have studied closely the history of negotiations on conflict resolution—that agreements forged in the crucible of the heat of conflict and crisis are never precise. Invariably, such agreements are flawed with ambiguities and gray areas. The Oakwood agreement is one such document.

In the history of peace agreements, including ceasefires—these agreements are never clear-cut. I can cite, among the few examples, the negotiations to end the Vietnam War, which lasted for nearly a decade. Even when the final peace accord was signed in Paris, it was still dogged by ambiguities in the implementation of agreements.

I can understand the pressure Cimatu was subject to in the effort to defuse crisis and avert bloodletting. Ambiguity is a mechanism in diplomacy to break deadlocks.

When Cimatu walked in, the President had extended the deadline of the ultimatum by two more hours, beyond which the government forces surrounding Oakwood were ready to attack with rockets.

If there had not been progress in the talks, the government was not bluffing in its ultimatum and there was no sign that it would hesitate to use force.

Given Cimatu's mission to avoid bloodshed, a flexible formula for a nonviolent resolution had, in effect, been the most sensible approach to prevent the hardening of positions of both sides.

Ambiguity

In crisis negotiations, bargaining on explicit terms could only prolong the standoff and would not help break it. Ambiguity is a formula not only to give flexibility to negotiations but also to allow face-saving compromise to work.

Under deadline pressure, it was pointless to be arguing over details or where to put the dots and cross the t's. What's important is to agree on fundamentals, and clearly the negotiations at Oakwood were not the moment for discussing or engaging in lawyer's debate over whether the soldiers would be tried in a civilian court or in military tribunals.

Crisis talks have no place for debate over minute details. Cimatu and the officers were certainly not talking about insurances policy or commercial contracts. The big issue at stake was to prevent the standoff from deteriorating into a shooting war.

Whatever flaws emerged from the agreement, the point is that shooting was averted, and the soldiers walked out of the building, with an agreement whose implementation was certain to be fueled by its ambiguity.

Surrender agreement

What is undeniable is that the renegade soldiers lost the siege and their bid to grab state power. They were overpowered and surrounded. They had no chance, and if they agreed to the terms of the agreement that did not spell out explicitly in what courts they would be haled to, the soldiers knew the odds of winning were stacked against them and I would presume they saw the futility of insisting on granite-stenciled agreements.

What, in effect, they signed was a surrender document.

In wars, losers suffer the consequences of their actions. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles, that framed the post-war settlement of Europe after World War I, was so onerous and humiliating to Germany that many historians have traced the roots of the rise of Hitler to power and World War II to the treaty.

Germany had to swallow the humiliating terms and the burden of paying reparations to France and losing much of its territory—Saar, for example, along the French frontier.

It is the reality of conflict that losers—whether in wars or in failed coups—do not dictate the terms of settlement. In the Oakwood agreement, the government had the upper hand; the mutineers faced annihilation in combat and the consequences of lives lost and property destroyed in urban warfare would have been appalling if the soldiers did not accept the ambiguities of the agreement.

What is amazing is the gall of the losers at Oakwood to dictate the terms of the interpretation of the agreement, with regard to the venue of action the government would take to punish them for taking up arms and for the coup attempt.

Arrogance

It lifts arrogance to the Himalayan heights for the losers to impose their own interpretation of the Cimatu agreement. Their interpretation seeks to tie the hands of the President and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces from using all her legal weapons and powers to apply the "full force of the law" against not just ordinary lawbreakers but renegade soldiers who took up arms to attack the state and overthrow the government.

The government has the responsibility to determine the arena in which these legal weapons will be deployed to crush rebellion and to teach potential rebels that they will not be coddled this time and next time, unlike the slap on the wrist administered on the coup makers of the 1980s.

The rebel officers' attempt to impose their terms on the government, which they failed to overthrow, is a sample of their arrogance, as demonstrated by some of the coup leaders at the Senate hearings. In the hearings, we had a taste of their mentality that they were not only the accusers of the authorities whose resignation they demanded, but were also the judges of the charges they made. And when they took up arms to seize power, they also wanted to be the sheriffs to enforce their judgments.

Honasan lawyer asks DOJ for more time to answer raps

From page A1

against his client because Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio had declared that the Office of the Ombudsman was the proper body that could do so.

Gutierrez said he would also ask the department to give his client due process, which, according to him, could be done if Honasan's lawyers gain access to the leaders of the July 27 mutiny, who are detained at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

"The testimony of these officers, who have denied Honasan's involvement in the mutiny, is important to our legal defense," the lawyer said.

He also said he was considering asking four Cabinet officials to execute affidavits. The officials had talked to Honasan to help them convince the mutinous soldiers to return to barracks.

Gutierrez said he would ask the DOJ whether it was willing to compel Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, Undersecretary Rene Afable and Ambassador Roy Cimatu to submit their affidavits.

The lawyer said Honasan was supposed to have come out in public as early as last week but this did not happen because of Malacañang's statements that it was now looking for his client.

Gutierrez said the senator was supposed to start attending the Senate session on Thursday when the chamber resumed its inquiry into the July 27 Oakwood incident.

He said Honasan had dismissed as "preposterous" the allegations of fellow members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) and Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig that the senator had plotted to overthrow the Estrada administration and even kill the deposed President.

HONASAN

He said Honasan believed that Maligalig made the claim to "prop up the image" of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who had said that he turned his back on Estrada in 2001 because of a coup plot hatched by rightist elements.

The allegations of Maligalig were also meant to drive a wedge between Honasan and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, because of the alleged involvement in the plot of Lacson's archenemies, Police Director Eduardo Matillano and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, according to Gutierrez.

The two police officers confirmed Maligalig's claim that Honasan had told RAM members of the alleged coup plot against Estrada.

In a statement, Lacson decried the claims of Maligalig as a "figment of his imagination."

Lacson said that at that time, he did not receive any information about the alleged assassination plot. If it were true, he said, Honasan could not have been part of it as he had even asked Estrada to stand as godfather at his son's wedding several weeks before Edsa II happened.

"The plot did not happen. It was not about to happen. They are only bringing this out to put Senator Honasan in a bad light," Lacson said.

He also belied the claim of Reyes that the latter switched sides to preempt the plot.

"Even Secretary Reyes was surprised by the turn of events," Lacson said. "Maybe they are bringing this out now to make it appear that they were the saviors of former President Estrada. They want to project themselves as heroes."

Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III also came to the defense of Honasan, saying that at the time, the only moves he had heard against Estrada were coming from the opposition then.

Sotto said the new allegations against Honasan were only meant to put the senator and the opposition in bad a light.

3 officers to testify . . .

From page A1

Quoting insiders, Guevarra said the new facility would limit the lawyers' access to their clients, because they would have to talk using telephones placed on each side of a fiberglass screen.

"They want to make things even more difficult for us and our clients," he told the INQUIRER.

But Cabuay said Guevarra was "overreacting." Guevarra and his fellow lawyers could visit their clients "anytime of the day," he said.

He also said the defense lawyers could drop by even in the wee hours provided they secure a permit from his office. "In that case, I give them permits right away."

New testimony

Cabuay said the three new witnesses were part of the rebel contingent that seized Oakwood Premier in Makati. He said the three were now under the protection of the military intelligence community.

The soldiers' testimony will back Maj. Perfecto Ragil, whose account of the alleged ritual was a basis for the filing of coup charges against Honasan.

In his affidavit, Ragil said Honasan urged a group of around 30 soldiers to use "force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision" of the senator's National Recovery Program.

Honasan supposedly wrapped up the gathering by leading the soldiers in cutting marks near their armpits.

Cabuay said he and his men were still looking for the flag on which the soldiers reportedly imprinted the blood produced by the cuts.

A DNA test on the blood specimens on the flag, the official noted, would boost Ragil and the three other soldiers' accounts.

Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the police were close to identifying the "old house" in San Juan where the ritual was said to have taken place.

Matillano also said that the polling and consultancy firm Trillanes incorporated was the "think tank" of the aborted power grab.

He said FYI Research and Consulting Group produced the "revolutionary documents" which Trillanes and company used to sell the idea of the mutiny to other members of the Armed Forces.

Among these documents, he said, was "The Last Revolution," which purportedly called for the replacement of the Macapagal administration by a 15-man junta.

"FYI was more than just a research firm," he told the INQUIRER. "It played a key role in the coup attempt."

Syjuco linked

The ABS-CBN News Channel recently aired a report by its Iloilo correspondent quoting a former member of the staff of Rep. Augusto Syjuco (Lakas, Iloilo) as saying the administration lawmaker had abetted the military rebels.

The same report cited strong denials from Syjuco. A fellow Iloilo lawmaker, Rep. Arthur Defensor, also defended Syjuco.

Nograles said he was not able to catch the report, but noted that the rumor mill had been busy about the alleged involvement of congressmen.

Nograles also said that Mindanao legislators like himself wanted the mutiny leaders to name names regarding their allegation that they were ordered to attack mosques in the aftermath of the deadly bombings in Davao City. "We want to hear the names of these supposed officers who made such an order," he said. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 18, 2003
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jdg 2:11-19
Gospel: Mt 19:16-22

A young man approached Jesus and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary

There are many things in our life that we are proud of: our looks perhaps, our fortune, our popularity, our talents and skills. The rich young man in our gospel reading today was exactly that way. Youth and wealth are a sure measure of 'riches.' Many would envy him. But he wasn't quite satisfied, he wanted more. In all his wealth, he probably still felt empty deep inside. And in his desire to satisfy that hunger and emptiness, he finds himself going to the right person, Jesus, and asking him what more he had to do to gain that greatest prize of all—"eternal life." Jesus must have found the young man quite interesting, after all, he did invite him. "Give up everything you have and follow me" was Jesus' response to the young man's query. At that the young man felt sad, for he knew he had found that one thing he simply would not have, not because he didn't want it, but because he had something else that was incompatible with it—his treasure, his wealth. How he wished he could have his wealth and what Jesus offered as well. Sadly, that could not be. And realizing that turned him away. We too are like the young man most of the time. We're not bad people. Just too attached and proud of what we possess that we couldn't stand the thought of being parted from them, even if what Jesus is offering is actually something worth much more than anything and everything we could dream of possessing in this world.

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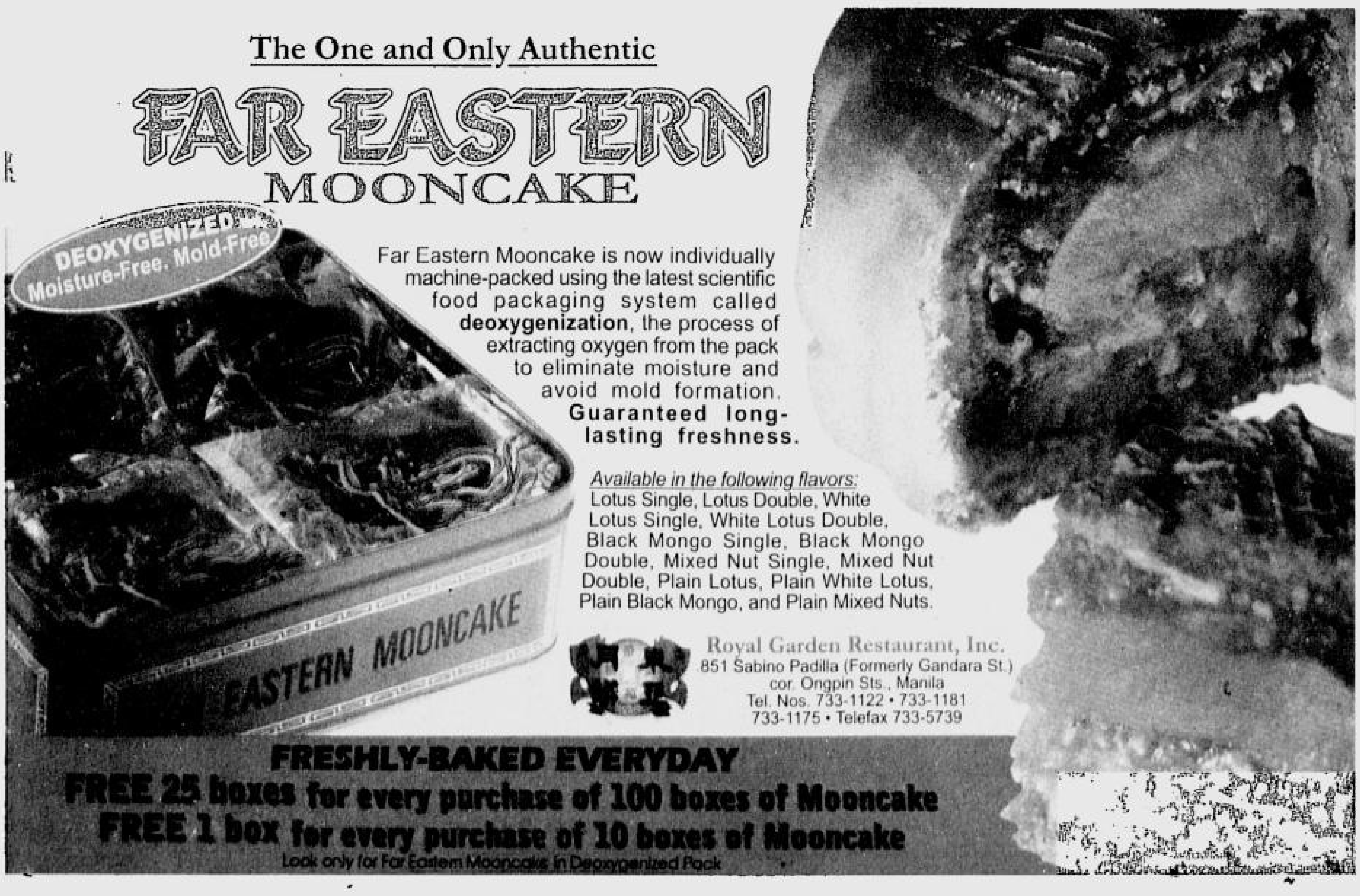

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BY R. B. VERA

METROBRIEFS

Homerun to jail

FIRST strike and he took a homerun to jail. Not knowing that cops were around, Jerry Santos, 23, grabbed the wallet of househelp Criselda Coco, in Caloocan City yesterday and ran away as Coco cried for help. Santos was surprised when he suddenly saw two men running after him. The two men—in shorts and sandos—turned out to be PO1 Genesis Lopez and PO1 Joel Morales, who were conducting a surveillance operation at the area. They finally caught up with the suspect who even tried to get on board an aircon bus. Police said it was the first time Santos, a pedicab driver living in Gagalangin, Tondo, tried to "score" in Caloocan City. Police returned Coco's wallet which had P50 cash. *Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.*

Stare threat

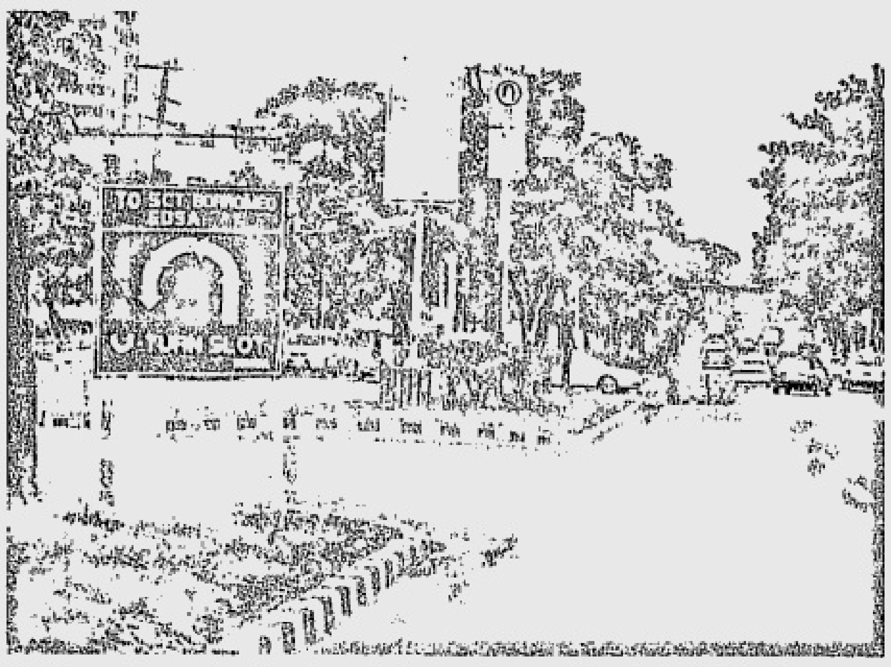
PO1 JAIME Gonzales, reportedly an officer from the Northern Police District, has gotten himself into trouble for threatening three men with physical harm early yesterday in Tondo, Manila. Police said Gonzales was drinking with his brother along Raxabago Street in Tondo when the three men passed by and allegedly stared at them. Gonzales, who was apparently drunk, thought the three were threatening him and his brother. He followed the three, slapped one of them, fired his gun twice into the air and then pointed it at the three. Fortunately, the parents of the victims were able to pacify Gonzales. He now faces administrative and criminal charges of grave threats, physical injuries and indiscriminate firing filed by the victims against him before the Western Police District. Tarra Quismundo

Bloody spree

A JOYOUS drinking spree in Novaliches, Quezon City turned violent and bloody yesterday and left one man dead. Antonio Balaba, 28, died from a gunshot wound and a stab wound in the back. One of his drinking partners, Ruben Catolmo, 23, was arrested by the police, while two other suspects in the incident remain at large. Police identified them as Jose Satorinas and Katang Satorinas. Investigation showed the three suddenly attacked Catolmo while they were drinking. *Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.*

Nail on the head

A SACK found by a stevedore in North Harbor, Tondo, Manila, yesterday yielded a dead man with a nail apparently driven into his forehead. Police described the victim to be around 40 to 43 years old, of medium-build, 5'4 to 5'6 tall, wearing a blue shirt and blue short pants. The victim's mouth and nose were wrapped with masking tape. The stevedore told police he saw a white car, with no plate number, dropping off the sack inside the compound of Pier 6. *Tarra Quismundo*



WHO says the new traffic scheme being implemented by the MMDA in Quezon City is causing jams instead? Not on a Sunday, it seems. But motorists claim the big snarls occur on weekdays.

RUDY ESPERAS

MMDA urged: Accept waste from hospitals

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health has asked the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to exert its influence on local governments and convince them to collect hospital waste in the metropolis.

Desiree Narvaez, chief of the DOH environmental and occupational health office, said yesterday that some hospitals in Metro Manila have been complaining against uncollected garbage in their areas.

Quoting hospital representatives, Narvaez said that the local governments have refused to collect even the non-infectious waste from hospitals, forcing them to shell out more money for waste disposal.

Hospitals are mandated to treat and dispose their infectious waste, which are segregated in yellow plastic bags. The local governments, on the other hand, are supposed to gather the general waste.

"The problem is that the LGUs do not collect even the general waste, so the hospitals have to spend extra and dispose the waste themselves, and this accounts for additional cost," Narvaez told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Narvaez said she had raised this concern with MMDA chair Bayani Fernando in a chance encounter last week.

She said Fernando has agreed to bring the issue before local government executives in the next metro mayors' meeting at the MMDA.

SINGLE DISPATCHING SYSTEM

Longer waiting time to get ride

By Margaux Ortiz

ARE YOU taking the bus today? Well, don't be surprised if you have to wait a few more minutes before getting a ride on Edsa.

That is one of the effects being anticipated as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) starts implementing the Organized Edsa Bus Route or the single dispatching system.

"(Passengers) would now have to learn to wait patiently for the buses, instead of the other way around," said Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

In the current system, buses line up and wait for passengers at certain areas along Edsa and often cause traffic to build up behind them.

With the single dispatching system, buses will be dispatched depending on the number of passengers in need of a ride. This is to ensure that "just enough" units would be plying Edsa at any given time.

Vergel de Dios said in an interview over radio station dzBB that they were not expecting the scheme to be perfect on the first day.

"But we will improve it as we go along," he said.

According to him, the rules, regulations and sanctions for bus drivers that would violate the system were formulated by the bus operators.

The bus operators were also allowed to hire their own men to be part of the dispatching and monitoring units on Edsa.

The dispatching and monitoring units are tasked to observe passenger presence on Edsa and inform terminals of the need for more or lesser buses to be dispatched.

Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (IMBOA) president Claire dela Fuente said they were working overtime to ensure that the scheme would be implemented properly.

She added that some aspects of the single dispatching system were still unclear.

"We will find out (today) if the scheme works," Dela Fuente said.

Meanwhile, Vergel de Dios asked motorists for patience after the implementation of the clearway scheme on Quezon Avenue reportedly caused traffic jams along the thoroughfare.

He said the same initial confusion occurred when the MMDA implemented a similar scheme along Marcos Highway in eastern Metro Manila.

The traffic director however noted traffic cleared up along Marcos Highway after two weeks. He was expecting the same on Quezon Avenue.

Under the clearway scheme, the MMDA has prohibited crossings and left turns on Quezon Avenue. Vehicles instead have to use designated U-turn slots to go to the next lane, and then turn right toward their original destination.

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Driver's license in a week?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF PLANS push through, it would take only about a week for anyone to get his driver's license.

Getting one today usually takes three months.

Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza told reporters last week he would be creating a committee to study the adoption of a faster processing system on driver's licenses.

Mendoza said he hoped that his planned reforms could all be in place by September. Aside from a one-week driver's license, Mendoza said renewing one's license would also soon just take 30 minutes.

But transport group leaders are not optimistic.

Medardo Roda, president emeritus of the transport group PISTON, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Mendoza's promise "remains to be proved."

He said similar promises had been made when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in 2001 but up to now, drivers continue to experience nightmares in getting a driver's license.

Efren de Luna, president of PCDO-ACTO, also said the promise of a faster processing time was an old rhetoric.

He added that some LTO employees were purposely delaying the processing of licenses to make money.

Secret...

From page A22

Ibis said an ID bearing the name Rodel Samonte of Pasay City was found on the dead suspect.

According to SPO4 Jake Reyes, SOG head, one of the two suspects who fled was identified using a police picture file as Benjamin Santos, 27, of E. Perla Street, Pasay City.

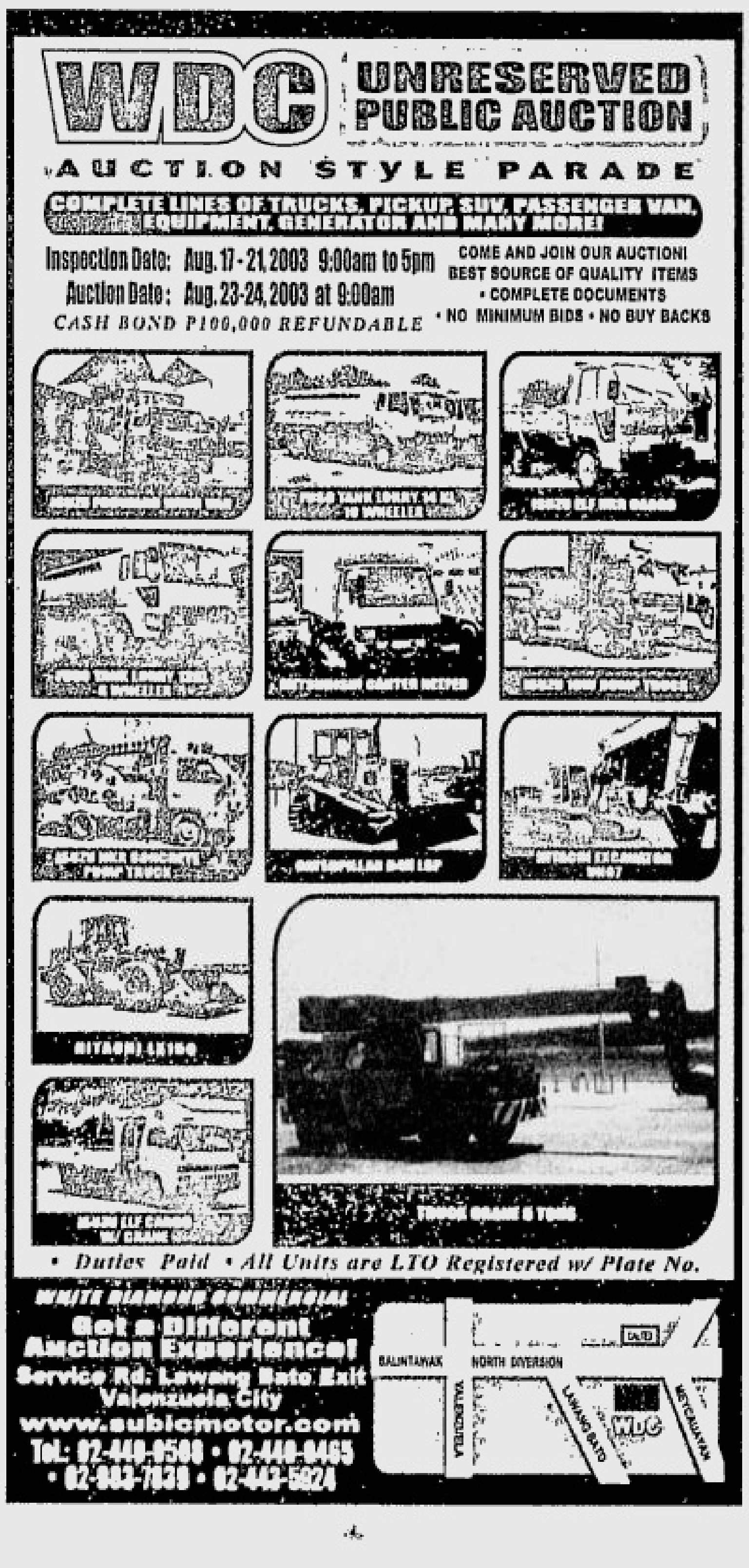
Reyes said they began conducting "covert operations" on air-conditioned buses after incidents of bus robberies went up, especially during weekends.

He noted that on Aug. 3, robbers also held up a passenger bus bound for Cubao in Makati City.

Despite the killing, Reyes said the order to his men was to apprehend suspects and not to kill them on sight.

During the martial law years, dictator Ferdinand Marcos ordered the deployment of undercover lawmen called secret marshals to check the robberies on public utility vehicles.

The covert operations were criticized by some quarters after these became notorious for the killing or "salvaging" of robbery suspects.



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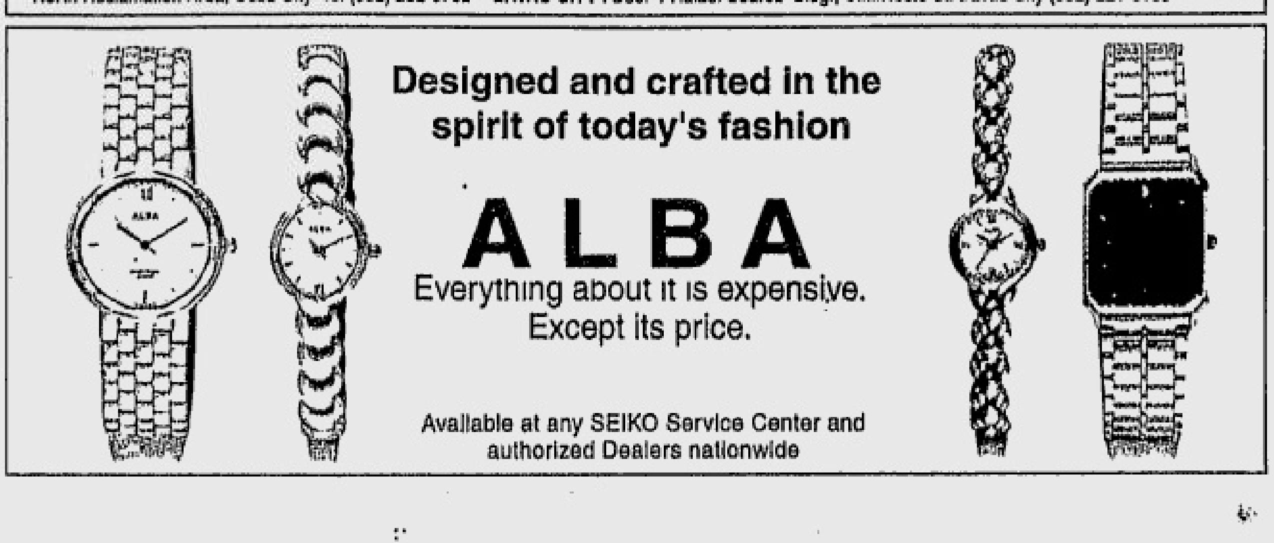

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

‘Secret marshals’ score in Makati

By Margaux Ortiz

REMINISCENT of the “secret marshals” of the martial law years, the police in Makati City have dispatched plainclothes operatives to go after armed robbers who victimize bus passengers in the city.

Yesterday, the undercover policemen scored their first “hit” with the killing of a suspect during a foiled robbery.

PO2 Efren Oco of the Makati Special Operations Group (SOG) shot dead one of three unidentified men who tried to rob the passengers of an air-conditioned Del Carmen bus as it cruised along Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) near the Makati Post Office at 12:45 p.m.

According to PO2 Juancho Ibis, Oco and two other SOG operatives, PO3 Rolando Losario and PO2 Ronald Banzon, were conducting bus-to-bus operations when three men came aboard at the corner of Puyat and Mayapis Street.

One of the men sat beside Oco while the two others sat several seats away.

There were about 20 passengers inside the bus at that time.

Moments later, the man sitting beside Oco pulled out a .38-caliber revolver and declared a holdup. This prompted Oco to jump at the suspect and try to take the gun.

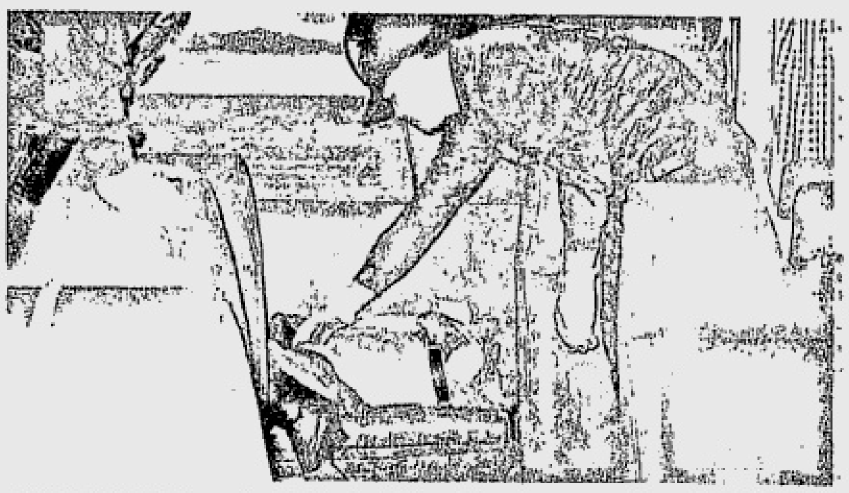
During the scuffle, the lawman said, the suspect tried to point the gun at him and tried to shoot him.

Oco then had to pull out his .45-caliber pistol and shoot the suspect twice. The suspect was hit once in the body and once in the head.

The suspect died on the spot.

The two other suspects fled the bus after seeing the lawmen.

SECRET/ A21



A POLICEMAN inspects the body of the robbery suspect who was slain during a botched holdup in Makati City.

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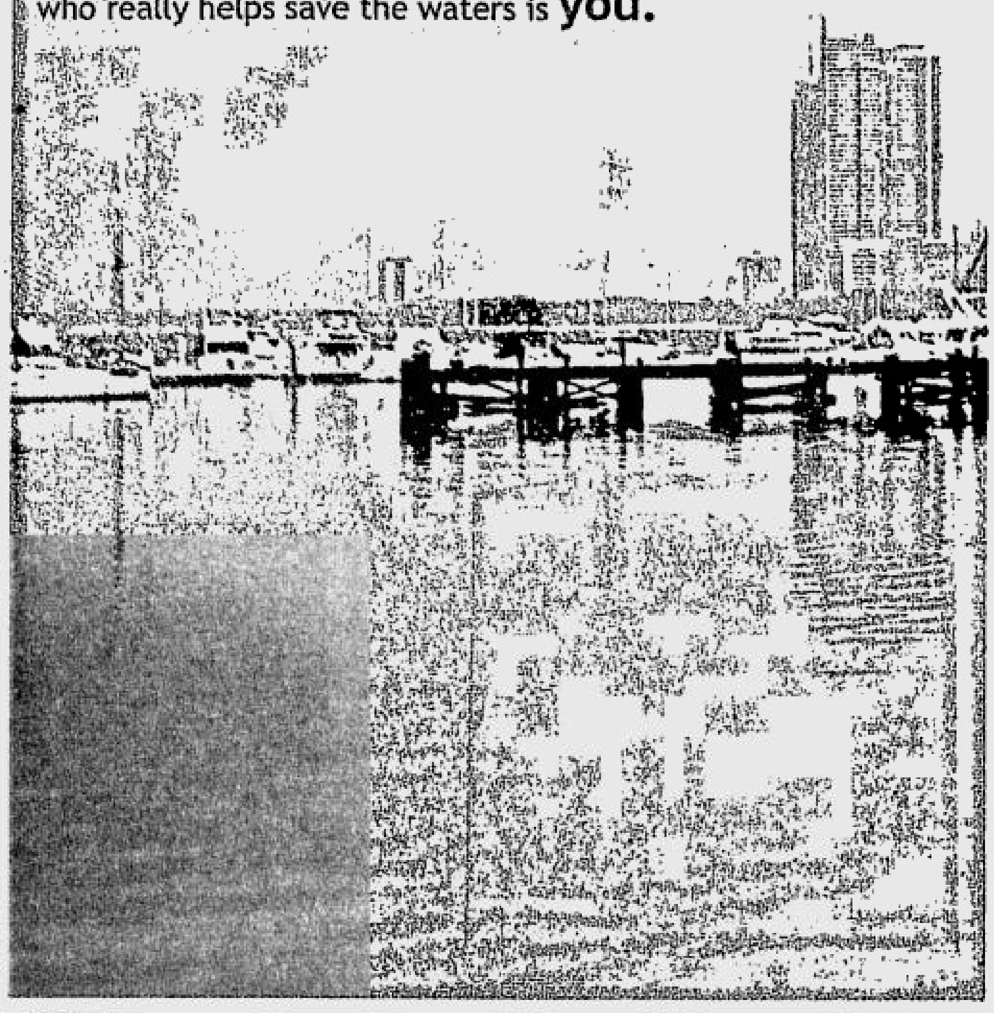

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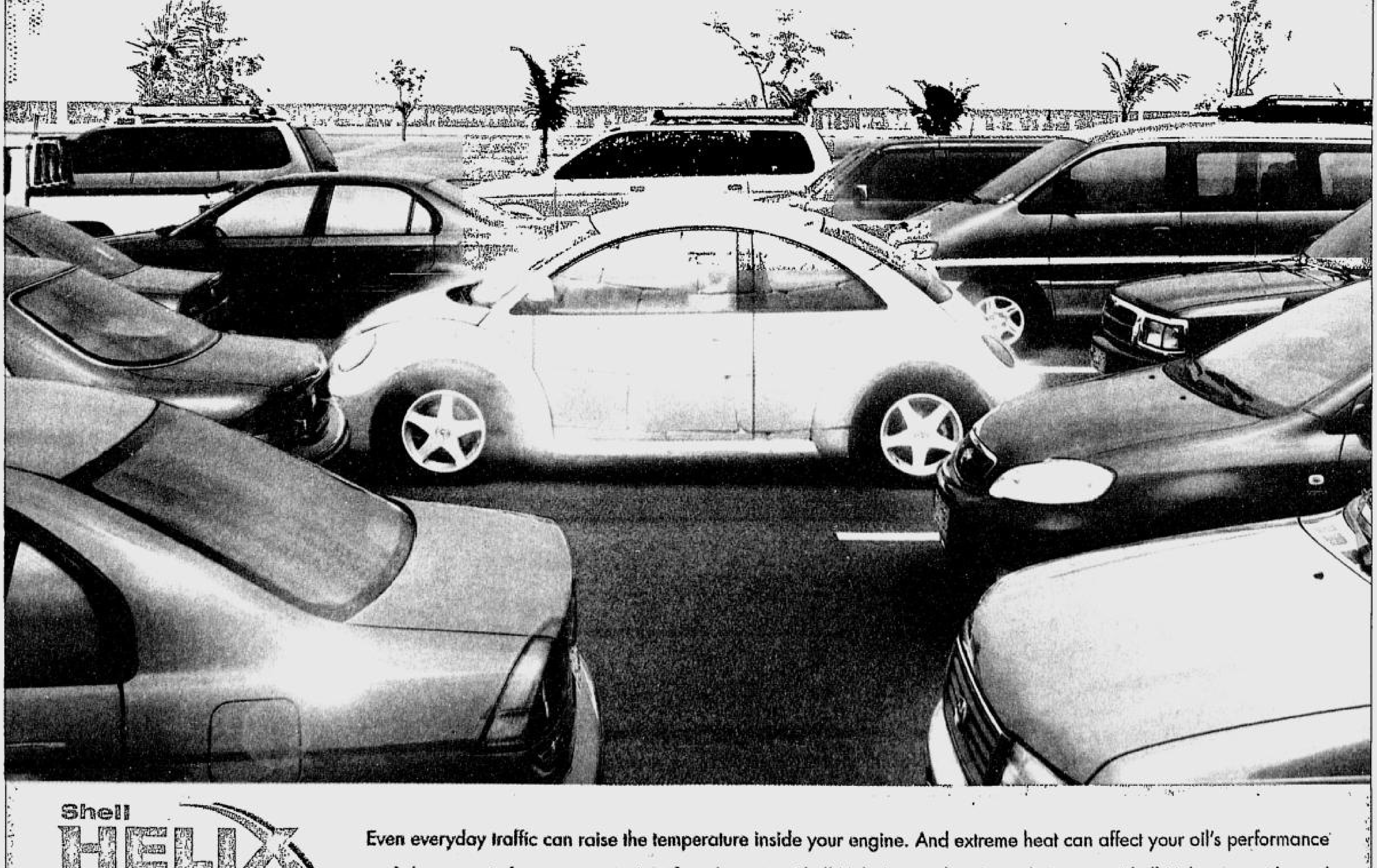

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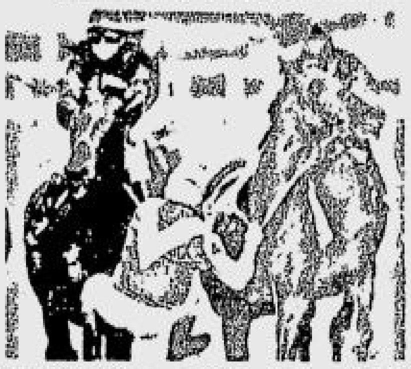


FedEx Express whip RB Thunder for 3rd

GAME WEDNESDAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
7 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska

By June Navarro

ROOKIE John Ferriols and Roger Yap presided over an explosive fourth-quarter finish as the FedEx Express clinched third place by routing the Red Bull Barako Thunder, 99-84, last night in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Express captured their first franchise trophy since joining the league last season as Ferriols and Yap combined for 15 of the team's last 26 points.

Ferriols banged in eight of his 18 points while Yap, taking over the playmaking chores from the injured Egay Billones, chipped in seven as the Express broke away from a 73-70 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Billones hurt his foot prior to the Express' losing semifinal encounter against the Coca-Cola Tigers.

"We wanted to make it to the Finals but we came up short. So I told my players to end this conference on a winning note," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren.

The Express came close to making it to the championship for the first time but the Tigers refused to oblige them with a 91-83 victory last Friday.

Renren Ritualo sizzled from the three-point area to finish with a team-high 21 points. Yap added 19 for the Bert Lina-owned ballclub.

As Yap and Ferriols conspired to break the game wide open, the Thunder also came up with their own surprise only to squander the opportunity as Jimwell Torion was slapped with two unsportsmanlike fouls.

Torion tried to trip a fast-breaking Yap on the sideline, earning the Express a technical free throw that Vergel Meneses cooly sank.

A few seconds later, the 5-foot-8 Red Bull playmaker threw a vicious elbow at Yap while trying to score on a low-post play, sending Yap to the stripe and sealing the win for the Express.

Mick Pennisi's 25 points and 12 rebounds went for naught as the Thunder sputtered at the finish for the third straight tournament.

In last year's All-Filipino Cup, the Thunder topped the elims only to lose in the semifinals against the Alaska Aces.

The Thunder also led the elimination round in the last tournament only to fare miserably in the quarterfinals. This time around, the Thunder went 3-0 but dropped their last two matches, including this one.

"I hope this third-place win will be a springboard for us in the next conference," said Pumaren, who has tapped the services of an NBA veteran to reinforce the Express in the import-laced third conference.

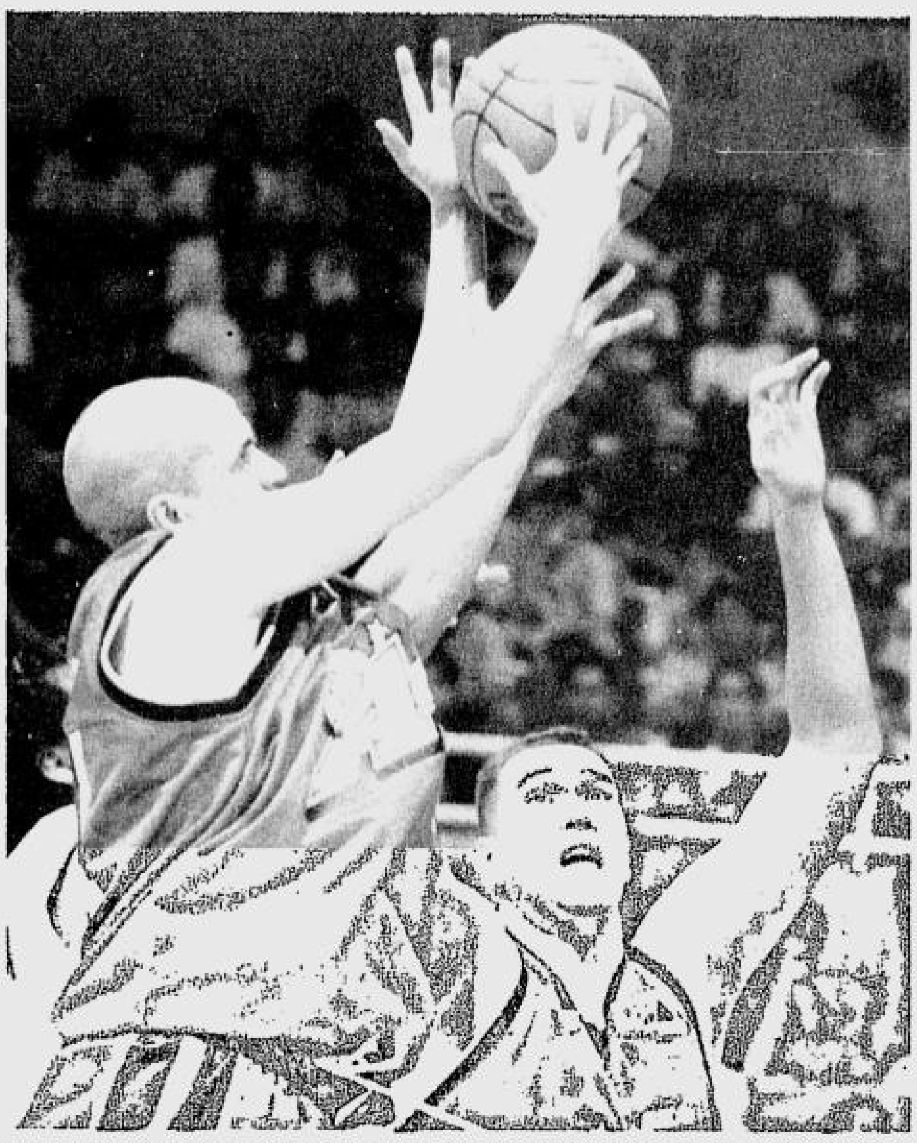
Pumaren said he expects Darren Hancock, a four-year NBA veteran who saw action for the Charlotte Hornets and the Milwaukee Bucks, to fit into the Express system when the reinforced conference starts on Aug. 30.

Scores:

FEDEX 99—Ritualo 21, Yap 19, Ferriols 18, Meneses 14, De Ocampo 11, Rodriguez 5, Arboleda 5, Codinera 4, Ejercito 2, Ortiguera 0.

RED BULL 84 —Pennisi 25, Villanueva 13, Villoria 13, Asaytono 11, Torion 9, Miller 8, Valenzuela 4, Tugade 1, Reyes 0, Se 0, Hizon 0.

Quarters: 18-24, 47-44, 73-70, 89-84.



ALASKA'S John Arigo drives to the basket in the Aces' game against the Coca-Cola Tigers.

JESS YUSON

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Knights, Lions clash for solo lead as Final 4 nears

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—CSB vs SSC-R (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SBC vs Letran (jrs/srs)

LETRAN and San Beda collide for the solo lead today even as College of St. Benilde shoots for a fourth straight win in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Determined to boost their Final Four bids, the Knights and the Red Lions tangle at 4:45 p.m. with the winner moving ahead of the eight-team field with a 7-3, win-loss card.

As things stand, the Knights, the Lions and the idle Mapua Cardinals are three games away from securing at least a playoff for a Final Four berth.

But the CSB Blazers are expected to steal the limelight, however, when they try to add the defending champion San Sebastian Stags to their growing list of victims earlier at 2 p.m.

Although still down in the cellar at 3-7 in a tie with Perpetual Help and Philippine Christian University, the Blazers can no longer be taken for granted with the impressive way they blasted their last three rivals after dropping all their seven games in the first round.

STANDINGS	W	L
Seniors		
San Beda	6	3
Letran	6	3
Mapua	6	3
JRU	6	4
SSC-R	5	4
PCU	3	7
UPHR	3	7
CSB	3	7

But the Stags (5-4) remain slight favorites over the Blazers whose previous victims are the Altas, the PCU Dolphins and the Jose Rizal Bombers, who are running fourth at 6-4.

The Lions failed to inch closer to a Final Four berth after losing to the Stags, 83-75, last week.

The Knights, on the other hand, got ambushed by the Cardinals, 77-67, to forge a three-way tie at the top.

"The law of averages caught up with us," said Letran coach Louie Alas after his loss to the Cardinals.

"As for San Beda, they are more than eager to get back at us after we beat them in the first round," added Alas.

San Beda's Jerome Paterno, Arjun Cordero, Ronnie Bughao, Michael Casino, James Hudencial, Tim Ong and Mark Apepe are expected to make up for their mediocre performance against the Knights this time around. *June Navarro*

Eagles get back at UE Warriors

Games on Thursday (Loyola Gym)
1:30 p.m.—NU vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Srs)
6 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

LARRY Fonacier delivered the crucial hits as defending champion Ateneo outplayed University of the East, 76-67, last night and seized solo second in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Nicknamed The Silent Assassin for his penchant of making the big baskets at crunchtime, the 6-foot-3 Fonacier shocked the Warriors by hitting two triples in the dying minutes as the Eagles took a safe 73-61 lead, 2:30 remaining.

The win raised Ateneo's record to 6-2 behind the frontrunning 7-1 card of Far Eastern as it avenged its 69-68 loss to UE in the first round.

The Warriors took their third loss in eight outings and dropped to a share of third spot with La Salle.

Earlier, Santo Tomas survived a barrage of three-pointers from National U and escaped with an 83-78 victory to keepits Final Four hopes alive.

The Bulldogs, who drained 11 triples last threatened at 79-77, 17 seconds remaining but Jemal Vizcarra and Derick Hubalde converted four free throws to preserve the Tigers' third win in eight games.

Ronnie Cajayon starred in NU's fourth-quarter rally from 12 points down at 73-61, firing 12 of his 13 points, including three triples.

But time ran out on the Bulldogs, who took their seventh straight loss after an opening win over University of the Philippines.

Paul Artadi's layup and James Yap's two free throws enabled UE to threaten at 61-58, but the Warriors failed to sustain their run.

Macky Escalona soared for a layup, Fonacier buried a triple and Rich Alvarez, who ruled the shaded lane with 15 rebounds, made it 68-58 with another layup.

After Yap and Artadi combined for three points, 61-68, Fonacier had the crowd roaring in delight with two free throws and anothr three-pointer..

"I'm happy that we survived. UE always gives us good competition," said Ateneo coach Joel Banal. "We have more energy at endgame,"he added.

"My players have the bad tendency of relaxing when they are ahead. We have to remedy this situation," said UST coach Aric del Rosario, who will leave today for Kuala Lumpur with the national men's basketball team for the Seaba championsnhip.

Vizcarra topscored with 19 points, but it was the all-around performance of bullstrong Rene de Guzman which proved crucial for the Tigers, the only team to beat frontrunning FEU so far.

The 6-foot-3 De Guzman scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds

Scores

First Game (Jrs)

UST 79—Leyga 14, Flores 10, Panahon 8, Poblete 8, Badua 6, Crisostomo 6, Principe 6, Basa 6, Domingo 5, Bautista 2, Zapanta 0.

NU—Conopio 14, Balabbo 8, Valencia 4, Carlos 3, Garduno 2, De Leon 2, Gawson 1, Bernabe 1.

Quarters: 22-5, 50-15, 62-22, 79-37

Second Game (Srs)

UST 83—Vizcarra 19, De Guzman 18, Espiritu 12, Villamin 9, Hubalde 9, Luanzon 7, Manansala 5, Evangelista 2, Del Rosario 2, Raterta 0, Pribdhas 0.

NU 78—Mendoza 14, Cajayon 13, Catamora D. 12, Moradas 12, Baguion 10, Malagueño 8, Miclat 5, Tolentino 4, Catamora 0, Malcontento 0, Molleno 0, Balijon 0.

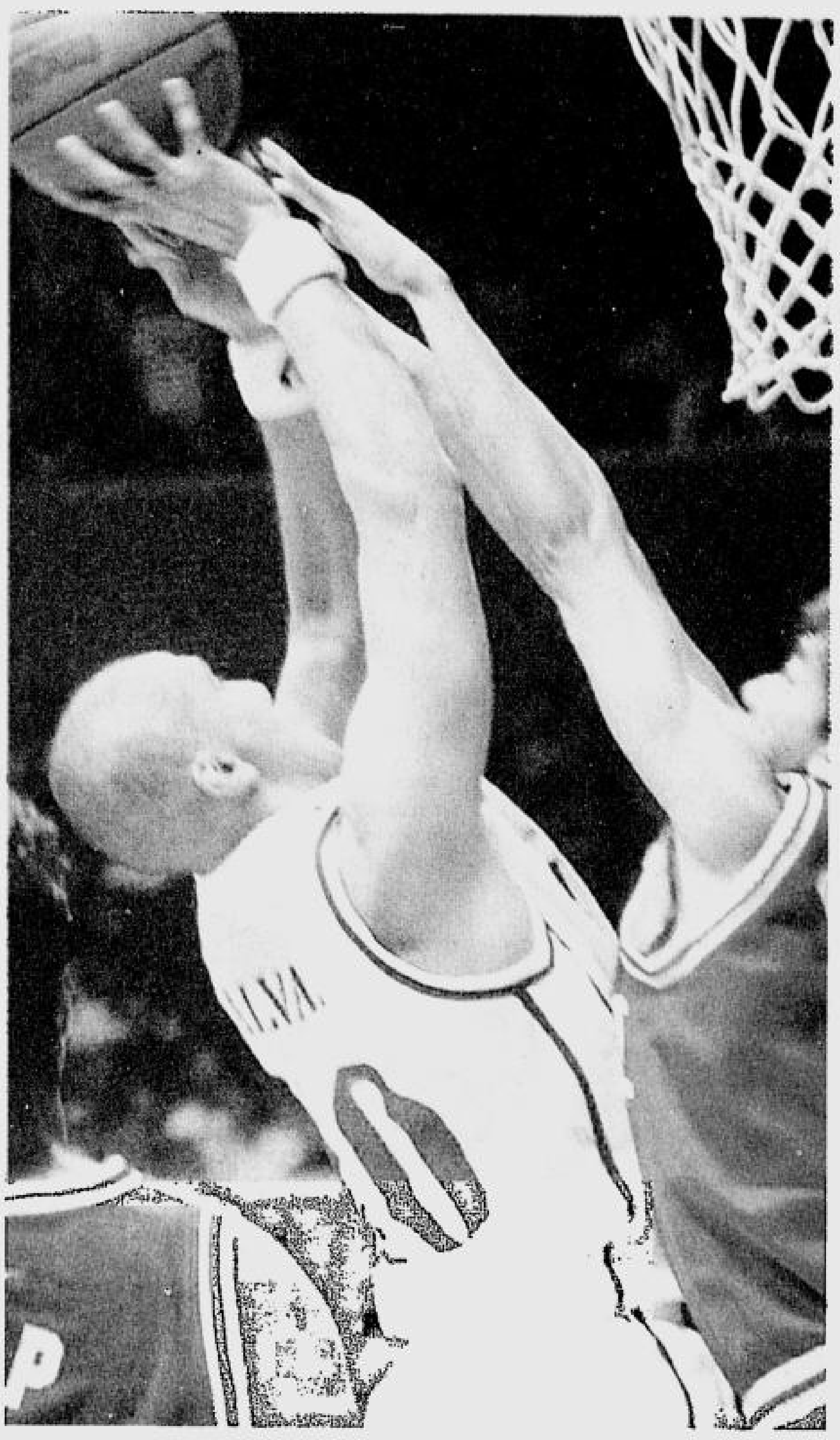
Quarterscores: 20-17, 35-35, 57-52, 83-78

Third game (srs)

ATENEO 76—Fonacier 15, Gonzales 14, Tenorio 14, Bugia 10, Alvarez 8, Kramer 6, Membrere 5, Escalona 4, Intal 0.

UE 67—Yap 19, Artadi 11, Estrada 9, Masbang 6, Booker 6, Tan 5, Omiping 5, Tamayo 2, Butel 2, Canaleta 2, Labagala 0.

Quarters:19-18, 36-33, 57-51, 76-67



ATENEO'S Rich Alvarez tries a fadeaway shot over UE's Allan Omiping in their game last night. Alvarez failed to convert, but the Eagles won. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Paglaum softbelles W'Series champs

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippines scored a breakthrough victory in the world youth softball championship Saturday in Kirkland, Washington, with one of three Negros Occidental girl teams that luckily made it the US.

The Bacolod City-based Paglaum Village National High School (PVNHS) team blanked Puerto Rico, 2-0, in the finals to rule the 13-14 division of the 2003 Junior Softball World Series, Gerald Catano, Bacolod City Little League chapter president, announced yesterday.

The PVNHS victory was the first for the Philippines in the world series softball competition.

Coached by Reynaldo Fuentes, the Paglaum girls had been competing in the world series for girls 13-14 division since 1998 where they finished third as in last year.

Two other squads from Negros Occidental that earned berths in the world competition—the Domingo Lacson NHS (girls senior 14-16 division) and the Educational Training Center School (Little League girls 11-12 division) failed to make it to Kentucky and Oregon, respectively, due to funding problems.

Castano said the Paglaum girls first beat West America (California) 3-0, then went on to clobber Central America (Ohio) 9-0, South America (West Virginia) 7-0 and Southwest America (Texas) 3-1 on their way to the championship.

They lost only once, to Puerto Rico, 2-1, in a no-bearing crossover semis match.

But in the championship showdown the Bacolod City girls prevailed.

The members of the champion team are Ma. Rossini Antipatia, Ailyn Benedicto, Fairbee Cabugnason, Bebian Deala, Nelsa Delagente, Aiza de la Torre, Christian Jade Declines, Angelyn Delbugado, Rachel Fuentes, Ana Marie Moneva, Treshia May Rodriguez and Jelyn Pabiona.

The Paglaum team borrowed money from friends amounting to P624,000 to make it to the US. A total of P524,000 was spent for tickets alone said Castano.

"We did not tell our players that we had funding problems so they would concentrate on their game,'" Castano said.

Eligibility should be a PBA concern—Eala

By June Navarro

SOONER or later, the Philippine Basketball Association will have to open its doors to foreign players.

But to do this, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala suggested the pro league should be left on its own as far as policies on eligibility are concerned.

"One way to finally eradicate the problem of eligibility is to truly appreciate the PBA as a professional league," said Eala.

"As a pro league and a private entity, the PBA is definitely empowered to come up with its own rules in terms of eligibility," he added.

Eala's stand came in the wake of a recent recommendation from the Senate for the summary deportation of eight Filipino-foreign players who falsified their citizenship documents.

The Bureau of Immigration is now asking the Department of Justice to revoke the citizenship granted to Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text, Coca-Cola's Rudy Hatfield, Andy Seigle of Purefoods, Red Bull's Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi, John Ordonio of Alaska, San Miguel's Dorian Peña and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra.

"As a private organization, the governors have decided to allow any player to play in this league regardless of nationality for as long as it does not impinge on the capability of younger players to develop as professional players," said Eala.

"I think that this a prerogative that should be left to the PBA," he pointed out.

Eala foresees the league to exist like the NBA where players are accepted irregardless of nationality and bereft of political pressure.

"I have always looked at the PBA as a global league that will eventually open its doors to anyone for as long as we have certain limitations. This is one way of finally finishing the issue on eligibility," said Eala.

He added that if the concept of the NBA is adopted by the league, "there's no (more) question on who will play in the PBA as long as they get the appropriate government permits and they don't take away jobs from Filipinos."

EALA: PBA prerogative.

Eala added, however, that this can only happen in an expanded league, where at least 16 teams will be competing for the crown.

"All of this is tied up with open basketball, globalization, expansion and about profitability. If you all put them together, perhaps the problems of the PBA would go away," said Eala.

"I will not hide the fact that we're studying this possibility but it is something not in our priorities at the moment."

Blazers unscathed in men's volleyball

RESULTS SATURDAY
Jrs CSJL d. PCU 3-0 25-17, 25-12, 25-11
Wom PCU d. CSJL 3-1 23-25, 25-16, 25-17, 25-23
Men's PCU d. CSJL 3-0 25-13, 25-21, 25-23
Jrs CSB d. SBC 3-0
Men's CSB d. SBC 3-1 25-13, 25-16, 21-25, 36-34 (1:16)

STANDINGS	W	L
Juniors		
CSJL	4	0
UPHR	2	1
CSB	2	1
SSC-R	1	1
SBC	1	3
PCU	0	2
JRU	0	2
Women		
PCU	2	0
CSB	1	0
SSC-R	1	1
CSJL	1	2
UPHR	0	2
Men		
CSB	3	0
SSC-R	2	0
CSJL	2	2
SBC	2	2
PCU	1	1
JRU	0	2
UPHR	0	3

COLLEGE of St. Benilde needed an hour and 16 minutes to shake off San Beda and claim the solo lead in the seniors division of the NCAA volleyball tournament at the PCU gym along Taft Avenue, Manila Saturday.

CSB prevailed, 25-13, 25-16, 21-25, 36-34 for its third straight win.

In the morning matches, Letran claimed its fourth victim in the juniors level with a 3-0 whipping of host Philippine Christian University, but PCU returned the compliment with victories in the women's match, 3-1, and the men's contest, 3-0.

La Salle Greenhills downed San Beda in straight sets, 3-0, to share second place with UPHR in the juniors bracket.

Sunday's games featured defending champion San Sebastian against winless Jose Rizal in the juniors and men's divisions.

The Stags were going for a share of the lead with St. Benilde

Tampus defense in big Ormoc card

NO less than four world-ranked fighters from Cebu will spearhead the "Battle in Ormoc" card slated on Sept. 6 at the Ormoc Superdome.

The event, which is backed by Cebu Ferries, Supercat and Ormoc City under mayor Carmelo Locsin, will be this year's biggest boxing spectacle outside of the March 15 Manny Pacquiao event held in Luneta.

Pan Asia Boxing Association junior flyweight champion Marvin "Leyte Bomber" Tampus, who is ranked No. 5 in the WBA, will defend his crown for the second time against Thai Kaichon Sor Vorapin in a 12-round duel.

"If victorious, Marvin Tampus will most likely be given a crack at the WBA title," said promoter Joy Ouano.

The 18-year-old Tampus, a native of Bato, Leyte, first gained world prominence when he went to Thailand and knocked out then-PABA champ Deeden Kengkarun in the 7th round. In the rematch for his first defense, Tampus bucked an injured hand to once again stop Kengkarun in the seventh round of their rematch.

In the co-feature, unbeaten Philippine minifly champ Rodel "Batang Mandaue" Mayol, the WBC No. 4, takes on Thai banger Phalangchai Sor Vorapin in a 10-round clash. The iron-fisted Mayol gets a crack at the OPBF title if he gets past the Thai.

In another highly-anticipated fight, IBF No. 6 junior fly Wendel Janiola battles Cagayan de Oro's Rolando Baclayo in another 10-rounder.

Also, WBA No. 2 Joma Gamboa will take on young prospect Rodel Quilaton in another tenner. If he wins, Gamboa gets a shot at either the WBC junior fly title of Jorge Arce or the WBA crown of Rosendo Alvarez.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Fund lack bugs Muay Thai team

THE COUNTRY faces international embarrassment with the Philippine delegate to the Muay Thai World Cup set in Kazakhstan early next month in danger of missing the event because of lack of funds.

Brent Velasco, the undefeated world champion the last two years in the 54-kilo division, may not get a chance to defend his title, forcing Philippine coach Robert Valdez yesterday to appeal to private citizens and corporations to support the eight-man Philippine team.

"This is very sad and disappointing because the team has really prepared for this (tournament). We will lose our (Velasco's) title by default because we are unable to defend it," Valdez said. "We are asking individuals, institutions and corporations to help the delegate."

Valdez said he was informed last week by the Philippine Sports Commission that there are no funds for the event which will start on Sept. 5.

Another Laurente bags OPBF diadem

By Rey Danseco

PEDRITO Laurente became the second Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation titlist in the family last Saturday, coming from behind to dethrone superbantam champion Manabu Fukushima of Japan by unanimous decision in Tokyo, Japan.

The 26-year-old Laurente, whose older brother Dennis is the reigning OPBF lightweight king, bucked a gash over his left eye brow to stage a furious rally starting in the seventh round that proved decisive in the Filipino's second international title fight.

With his explosive finish, Laurente gained the nod of the three judges with scores of 117-113, 116-112 and 115-113.

The win improved Laurente's record to 13 wins with 4 KOs against five losses and a draw. His last defeat came in Feb. 13 when he lost to defending champion Poonsawat Katingdaeng of Thailand in his bid for the Paba superbantam crown.

Fukushima, ranked No. 8 in the WBC, absorbed his sixth defeat in 31 fights. He has 24 wins, 17 of them KOs, and one draw.

It was the first time two brothers held titles in the OPBF.

But Filipino featherweight Rud VK Kevkatche was not as lucky however as he dropped his rematch with interim Paba champion Yoddamrung Sithyodthong in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday.

Kevkatche, whose real name is Rudy Tacoque, picked himself up from a second-round knockdown and fought aggressively but could not prevent Sithyodthong from duplicating his unanimous decision win on June 27.

It was the 13th time in 15 fights that a Filipino lost in a Paba title clash.

Flyweight Rolly Lunas was the only Filipino survivor in Paba championship this year when he captured the vacant title last May 29 in Thailand and defended it for the first time in Mandaluyong City on Aug. 8.

Award-winning photo

THIS picture by INQUIRER lensman Val Handumon (inset) of the lead pack as it gets a very wet reception from fans in Sipocot, Camarines Sur, won first prize in the published category of the FedEx Tour ng Pilipinas photo contest. Handumon won P20,000 cash and a trophy.

SPORTSWATCH

Serito upsets Ng for title

UNSEEDED Marvin Serito of San Beda College upset top seed Gerard Ng, 6-2, 6-0, to bag the boys' 14-under division in the rain-marred Adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 over the weekend at the Philam Homes Tennis Club. Jose Lorenzo Ferrer turned the tables on No. 2 Kyle Cordero, 7-5, 6-3, to top the unisex 10-under bracket. Together with Serito, they managed to complete their matches before heavy rains wiped out the remaining title clashes in the netfest organized by CTW, supported by Milo and Wilson balls, and sanctioned by Philta. Declared co-champions were Kim Saraza and Joseph Baldonado in boys' 12-under; Nestro Celestino and Kyle Dandan in boys' 16-under; Irwin de Guzman and Emerson Ocampo in the junior men's 21-under; Sarah Jan Lim and Zhane Quitara in girls' 12-under; Jessica Agra and Julie Em Botor in girls 14-under. Ivy de Castro won two titles.

Basketball up in PSA Forum

BASKETBALL takes centerstage again in this week's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion with officials of the Professional Players Basketball Association (PPBA) and Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) guesting. Speaking in behalf of the PBA are Jojo Lastimosa and lawyer Orlando Salatandre while UCAA will be represented by its president Tisha Abundo and Benjamin Paulino, president of host Philippine School of Business Administration-QC.

PBA, media golfers clash tomorrow

THE SPORTS media golfers and their counterparts from the Philippine Basketball Association size each other up for the third and last time in a preliminary competition of the 2003 PBA Golf Classic Tuesday at Wack Wack. Tee off starts at 8 am. Scores in the three-leg prelims determine the handicaps of the players for the championships in October and December. The sports media golfers dominated the first two legs of the five-leg series with the Bulletin's Dodo Catacutan topping the second leg at the West course in June. Purefoods board representative Butch Alejo won Class B honors while Malaya's Aldrin Quinto ruled Class C play.

'Habol Sa Taglugon' derby set

COCKFIGHTING action sizzles at Roligon Mega Cockpit again this Saturday with Habol Sa Taglugon 4–Cock Derby. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Entry fee is P6,600. Aside from the P40,000 prize for handler and P20,000 to gaffer, also up for grabs are P50,000 for fastest kill champion, P20,000 for the handler of the fastest kill champion handler and P10,000 for the gafer of the fastest kill champion. Meanwhile, the regular 2-cock Ulutan starts early at 9 a.m. today. Slated on Sept. 2 and 4 is the annual P1 million RAY Showdown National 7–Stag Derby. For inquiries, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Broadcasters' golfest at Malarayat

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB) will hold its regular monthly tournament at the Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City this Wednesday. This month's tournament is supported by Cinnabon and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

An open letter to Commissioner Domingo

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PERRY McNeeley, an American madly in love with Philippine boxing, has remained behind bars at the Mandaue City Bureau of Immigration jail for nearly three years now.

He said he has already been cleared by the proper courts of all the 13 charges filed against him.

However, he said the Bureau of Immigration has decided to deport him after he was found to have operated as a boxing promoter without the necessary permit.

Well, it's open knowledge out there in Cebu how McNeely has lost a fortune in trying to maintain a boxing stable and put up significant boxing cards.

He said his losses have not deterred him from helping promote and develop boxing, mainly around Cebu.

He also wanted to make it clear that he has gone through what he perceived to be the proper procedure before venturing into boxing promotion.

Without meaning to offend Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, McNeely, who could be deported any day now, has requested us to print this open letter dated Aug. 16, 2003.

Dear Commissioner Domingo:

"I would like to once again make a formal request to please reconsider an earlier Deportation Order made on me, based on the allegation that I had operated a boxing stable without the proper working permits. Let me please clarify the situation surrounding my involvement in boxing.

I established my JMP Boxing Stable for the sole purpose of helping young Filipinos achieve their dreams of making it big in the field of boxing. It has never been my intention to make money out of it, and I never did, since boxing is not a profitable undertaking in this country. Besides, I already have my humble savings as a retired commercial pilot of the Trans World Airlines, and boxing also became a source of enjoyment for me.

After my enemies failed in all their efforts to pin me down with several fabricated cases lodged against me, which all 13 of them I have won through the courts of the law, they then used my involvement in boxing as their next logical move to get back at me.

Ma'am Commissioner, let me assure you that all my promotional and managerial licenses in boxing were all acquired by way of following all the requirements set by the sport's governing body, which is the Games and Amusements Board. My promoter's and manager's license were all above-board, and all proper documentary requirements were all examined by the GAB. I had furnished to them my passport, financial statements, etc. I had also tried to acquire a Quota Visa, but a hold-departure order prevented me from doing it.

In fact, then GAB chairman Dominador Cepeda and boxing division chief Emmanuel Flores were all familiar with my boxing licenses, having examined all the documents pertaining to my application. Had they found any reason not to grant me with licenses, I would have readily accepted that. But since they granted me the license, then I thought I was free to help the young boxers.

I still have faith in the country's justice system, and I hope your earlier recommendation to deport me based on the premise that I was involved in boxing without the proper licenses will be reversed and nullified.

Thank you and more power!
Yours truly,"
(sgd) Perry M. McNeely
BID-Mandaue City

Coseteng takes fourth Touring Car crown

SUBIC—Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-San Miguel-Caltex won the final two races of the season to bag the overall titles in both the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix and the Philippine National Touring Car Championship at the Subic International Raceway.

Coseteng flaunted anew the power of his Toyota Corolla to rule the season-ending 13th and 14th rounds and formalize his claim to his fourth title in 10 years in this series organized by the Sports Values Inc. and sponsored by Petron Corp.

The 41-year-old Coseteng also bagged the overall title in 1995, 1996 and 2002.

Overall, Coseteng finished with a 14-round aggregate of 113 points based on 10 first-place and two runner-up finishes.

A far second overall was Mike Anton of Red Bull-Auto Options. Anton and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA were the only other drivers who managed to win a leg this year.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Masters; 9:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.(r); Star Sports—See the best moments and highlights from the recent Masters leg in Cincinnati.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games—Kings vs Lakers, Game 6, 2002 Western Finals; 8 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); Solar Sports—Sacramento and Los Angeles engage in another epic Battle of California.

NBA Greatest Games—Knicks vs Bullets (March 3, 1973); 11 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—See the likes of Willis Reed, Clyde Frazier and Bill Bradley lead New York against Baltimore in a classic regular season encounter three decades ago.

WNBA—Comets vs Liberty; 1 p.m. (r); ESPN—Houston and New York renew their west-east rivalry once more.

GOLF: LPGA Evian Masters; 8:30 a.m. (r); ESPN—Catch a replay of the second round held at Les Bains, France.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Alegre writes 30

FORMER Philippine Journal and Manila Standard sportswriter Peter Monsod Alegre died yesterday at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center after a long bout with colon cancer. He was 38.

He is survived by his only daughter Monique, parents Felix Jr. and Marita, and siblings Perry, Gigi, Irene, Ricky, Timmy, James and Mirella.

His remains were cremated last night. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

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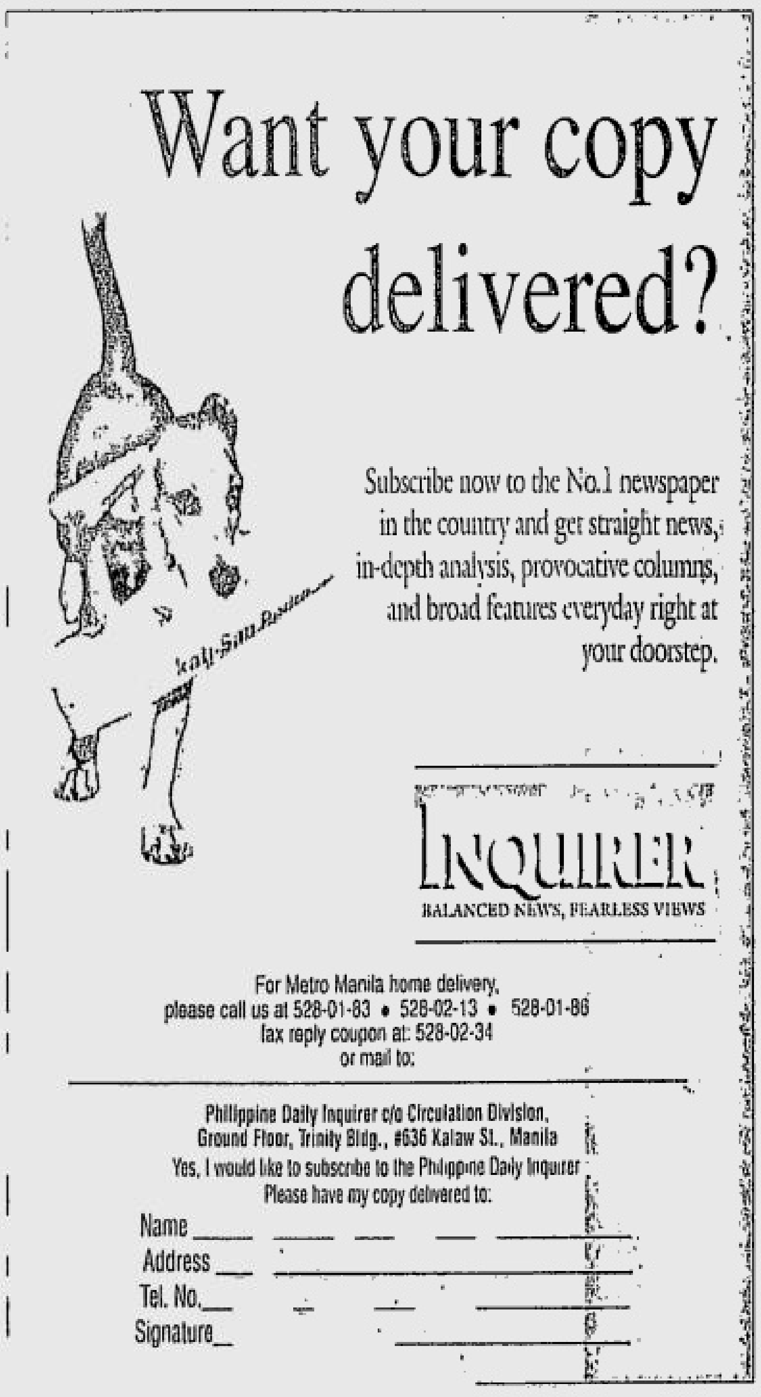

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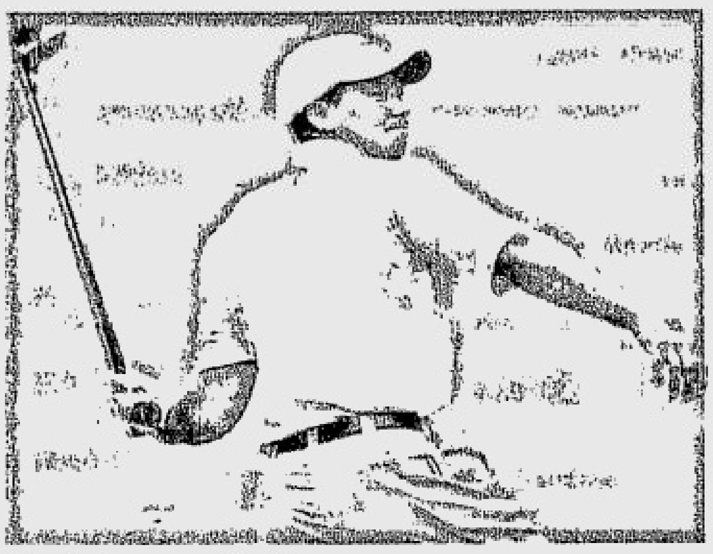


WOODS reacts to a bad shot. REUTERS

Unforgiving course defangs Tiger the Angry

ROCHESTER, New York—And now Oak Hill's humbling of Tiger Woods is complete.

The eight-time major winner missed seven of the first eight fairways and 12 of 18 greens here Saturday at the 85th PGA Championship, struggling to a three-over-par 73 to stand at nine-over-par 219 after 54 holes.

That was 12 strokes behind leaders Shaun Micheel and Chad Campbell.

This marks the worst three consecutive rounds in a major for Woods since the 1999 British Open, where he fired three 74s and a 72 in the second round.

Woods, never worse than 32nd after 54 holes in six prior PGA Championships, is out of serious title contention and a chance to win a major crown for the fifth year in a row. Woods, angry as ever, has never come from behind on the final day to win a major.

Driven into disaster by constantly sinking into the deep rough, Woods found himself betrayed by what was once the strength of his game, long tee shots that were the trademark of his rise to golf stardom.

Unable to find a fairway until the ninth hole, Woods showed his anger, spending much of the day spraying errant shots into the dense rough at unforgiving Oak Hill Country Club and digging divots in the deep grass.

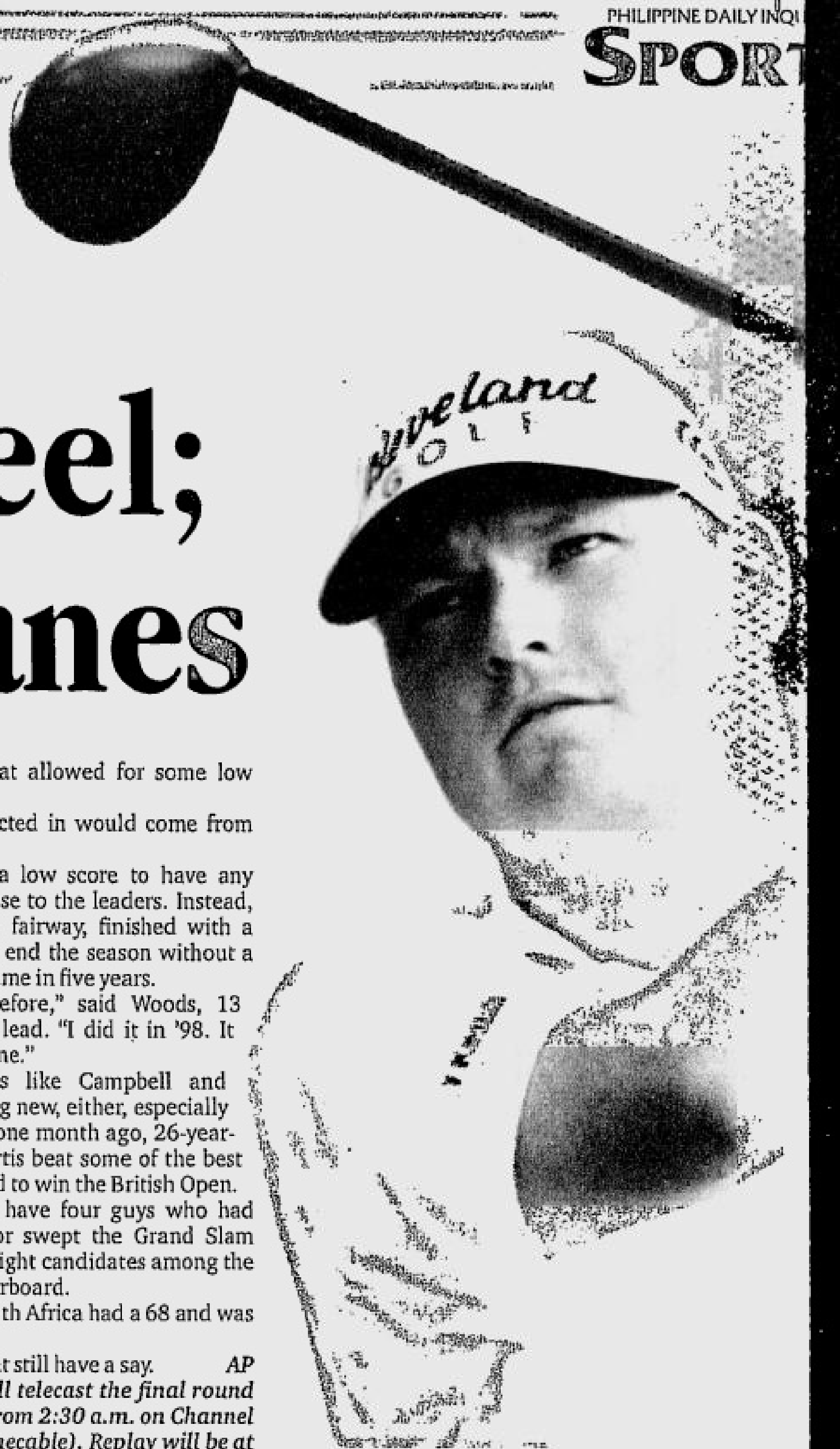
Lost confidence in the Nike driver he used this year pushed Woods to dumping it for his familiar Titleist from past seasons, but no club was working for Woods, who admitted after round one he was losing faith in his swing.

Woods began Saturday with back-to-back bogeys, struck a spectator off the tee on the fourth hole and added bogeys at seven and nine to make the turn 10-over par for the championship.

Even when he finally found a fairway at nine, Woods' second shot rolled back off the green into the fairway and he failed to convert a 12-foot par putt. *AFP*

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Campbell ties Micheel; Woods wanes



CAMPBELL drives from the 18th tee during the third r

ROCHESTER, New York—The PGA Championship was supposed to be the last chance for Tiger Woods to win a major. It turned into a great opportunity for two guys who have never even contended in one.

Chad Campbell, a 16-time winner in golf's minor leagues, holed a 35-foot (10 m) birdie putt on the final hole Saturday for a 5-under 65—the best score this week at Oak Hill—and a share of the lead with Shaun Micheel.

Micheel, winless in 163 previous starts on the PGA Tour, led by as many as four strokes until he gave it all back with bogeys on his final three holes. He still had a 69, and a spot in the final pairing Sunday.

They were at 4-under 206, two shots clear of Masters champion Mike Weir (70).

"I don't think either one of us has been in this position," Micheel said. "Just because people have never heard of me or Chad doesn't mean we can't play."

They showed everyone how on a steamy afternoon at Oak Hill, softened slightly by overnight rains that allowed for some low scoring.

Not many predicted in would come from these two.

Woods needed a low score to have any hope of getting close to the leaders. Instead, he couldn't find a fairway, finished with a sloppy 73 and will end the season without a major for the first time in five years.

"I've done it before," said Woods, 13 strokes out of the lead. "I did it in '98. It won't be the last time."

Surprise leaders like Campbell and Micheel are nothing new, either, especially not this year. Just one month ago, 26-year-old rookie Ben Curtis beat some of the best players in the world to win the British Open.

Not since 1969 have four guys who had never won a major swept the Grand Slam events. There are eight candidates among the top 11 on the leaderboard.

Tim Clark of South Africa had a 68 and was at even-par 210.

Experience might still have a say. *AP*

Solar Sports will telecast the final round "live" and in full from 2:30 a.m. on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable). Replay will be at 5:30 p.m.

Pak fires 8 birdies en route to clubhouse le

SYLVANIA, Ohio—South Korean Se Ri Pak was hotter than the weather.

Pak drained eight birdies over the first 12 holes before lightning amid hot, sticky conditions suspended Saturday's third round of the LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic.

"It was kind of hot out there, but I'm disappointed we didn't finish today," Pak said. Play was suspended with 18 players still on the course.

Weather permitting, those players will complete their rounds Sunday morning, with the final round beginning two hours later.

One of those players is Pak, the Korean star whose phenomenal partial round moved her to 14-under-par for the tournament, two shots better than second-round leader Laura Diaz. Both players have completed 13 holes.

Pinpoint iron play and excellent putting allowed Pak to surge to the lead. She had a 25-foot birdie putt lined up on the par-three 14th hole when play was suspended.

"I feel great this afternoon," said Pak, who felt sick

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well with my
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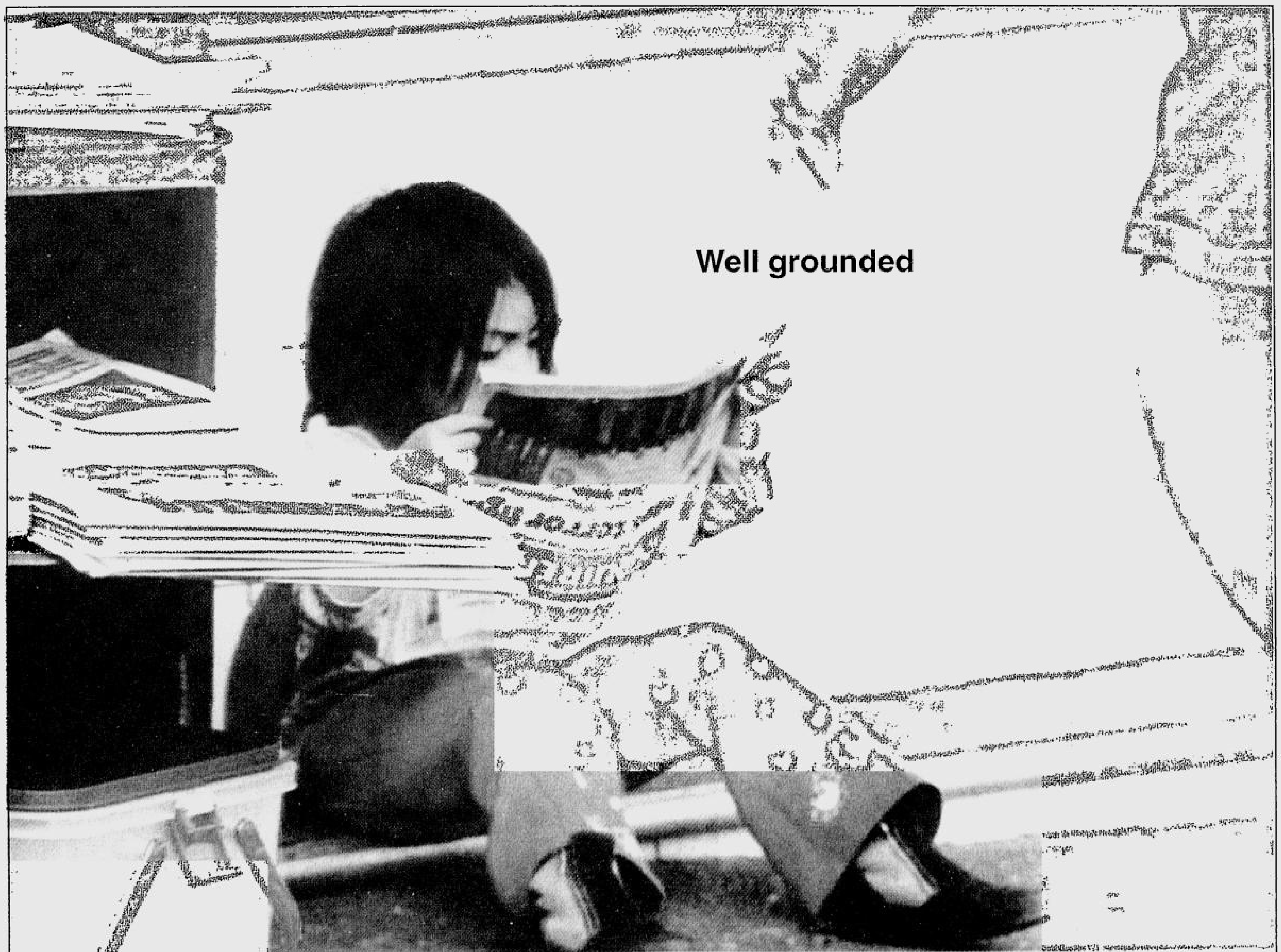

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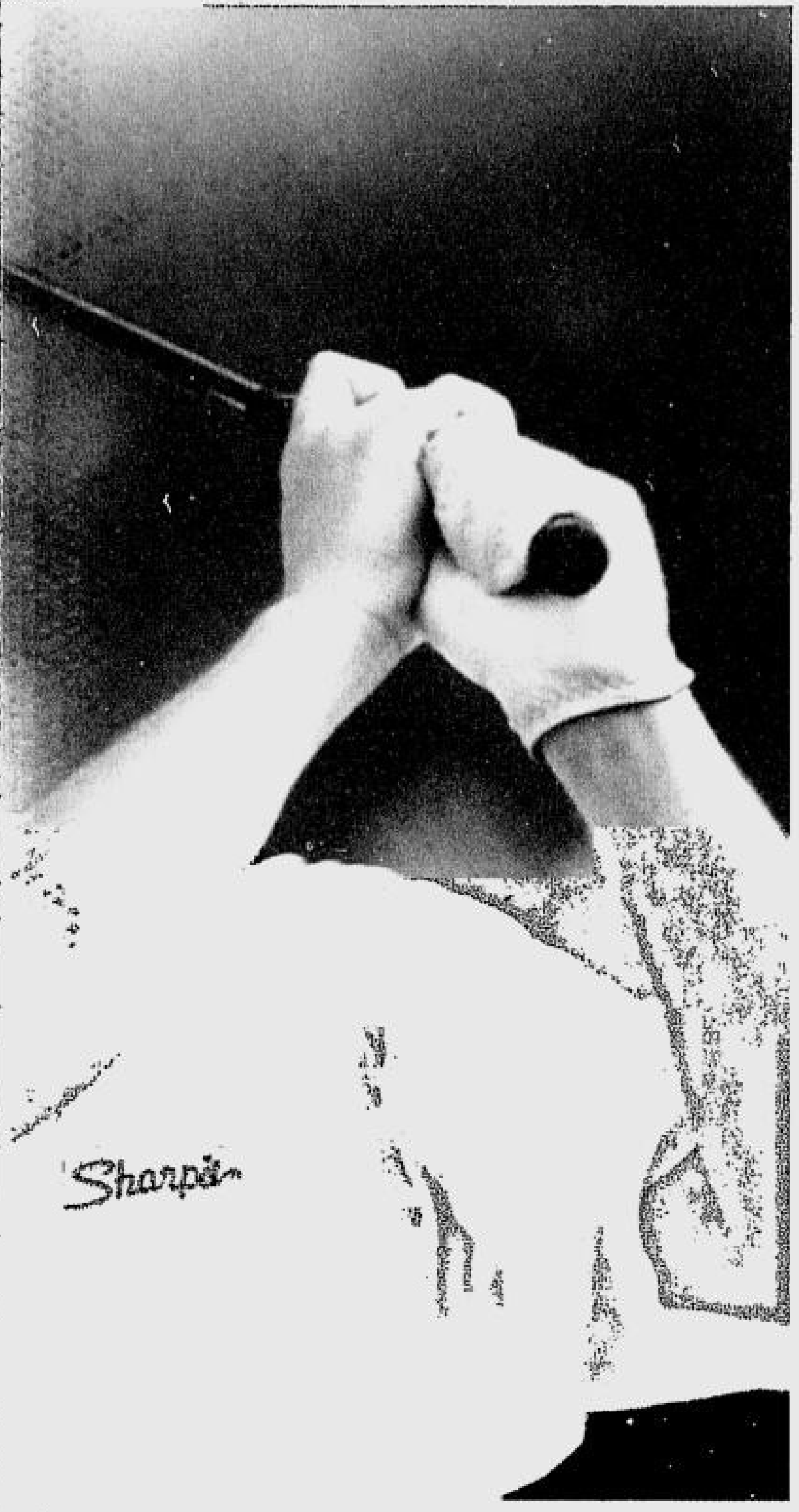


und. REUTERS

ead in rain-hit classic

uring Friday's second round. days I struck the ball really river and irons, and even my d.

e reason, the ball didn't find irst two days, I had a hard rdies.

go out today the same as the last two days and was striking the ball really well. I have a lot of confidence and finally my ball found the cup. It was pretty fun today." With five holes remaining, Pak has a legitimate chance at the magical 59 shot by tour superstar Annika Sorenstam in 2001.

"Annika shot 59? Why not 58?" Pak said. "That's my number." *AFP*

Martinez silences Seattle bats with strong 7 innings

ATTLE—Pedro Martinez extended dominance of the Seattle Ma- ers, pitching three-hit ball for sev- innings to lead the Boston Red Sox 5-1 victory Saturday.

Martinez (9-3) improved to 11-0 life- e against Seattle, his most wins inst any team. He allowed one run, walk and struck out seven.

Kevin Millar hit a solo homer and ve in two runs. David Ortiz added a -run double for the Red Sox, who intained a one-game lead over Oak- d in the AL wild card race.

Seattle's lead over the Athletics in AL West was reduced to four nes because Oakland beat Toronto.

Scott Williamson worked a scoreless hth. Byung-Hyun Kim struck out two he ninth, finishing the five-hitter.

Joel Pineiro (13-8) allowed five s and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings.

In Oakland, California, Tim Hud- won his fifth straight decision d Jose Guillen homered twice, lift- Oakland over Toronto.

Mark Ellis hit a three-run homer for A's, who snapped a three-game . Hudson left with a bruised right d after getting hit by Dave Berg's drive in the seventh inning and was en for X-rays, which were negative.

Mike Bordick drove in three runs for the Blue Jays.

Hudson (12-4) allowed one run on two hits with six strikeouts and three walks in 6 1-3 innings. Keith Foulke got his 30th save in 35 chances.

Mark Hendrickson (7-9) gave up five runs on seven hits over six innings.

In Kansas City, Missouri, Torii Hunter drove in three runs for the second straight game and Minnesota routed Kansas City again.

Kyle Lohse (10-9) went seven innings for the win, which brought Minnesota within two games of first-place Kansas City in the AL Central.

Luis Rivas scored three runs for the Twins. Doug Mientkiewicz, Corey Koskie, Jacque Jones and A.J. Pierzynski each had two RBIs.

Carlos Beltran, who had missed five starts with a sore elbow, homered twice and drove in the Royals' first three runs.

Runelvys Hernandez (7-5) lasted just 3 1-3 innings and was charged with nine runs on nine hits.

Hunter hit a three-run homer in Minnesota's 9-2 romp Friday.

In Baltimore, Orioles rookie Jack Cust fell down and was tagged out 10 feet from an uncovered home plate, ending a wild 12th-inning rundown and New York's win over Baltimore. *AP*

aiwan, US arrange world outh baseball showdown

IPEI, Taiwan—Host Taiwan and United States pulled through to finals of the World Youth Base- l Championships by beating stralia and Cuba respectively urday.

Taiwan beat Australia 3-6 in a dif- ult game delayed by rainfall. Aus- lia took an early lead, but Taiwan r pulled ahead.

Chiang Chih-hsien hit the only me run of the game at the bottom he fourth inning to equalize at 2- Taiwan's breakthrough came at bottom of the eighth when it ged ahead to the 3-6 lead it kept until the end of the game.

In the other semifinal Saturday, the United States beat rival Cuba 2-1. The Cubans won their only point in the first inning, but pitcher Jeremy Hellickson equalized in the fourth inning. The US team gained its victory in the seventh inning.

Taiwan and the United States will slug it out in the finals Sunday, after Cuba and Australia battle for third place.

In the semifinals earlier Saturday, South Korea eked out a narrow 9-8 victory against Japan, after dominating the first part of the game. *AP*

Henin survives Dementieva, reaches final

TORONTO—Justine Henin-Hardenne was extended for the first time at the $1.3-million WTA Tour tier one tournament here Saturday, but pulled away to earn a berth in the final.

Henin-Hardenne survived her first three-set match of the tournament by defeating Russian Elena Dementieva, 6-3, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, to advance to Sunday's final.

Henin-Hardenne, the No. 2 seed, will face her fourth straight Russian on Sunday in surprising Lina Krasnoroutskaya, who posted a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 victory over Paola Suarez of Argentina in the first semifinal.

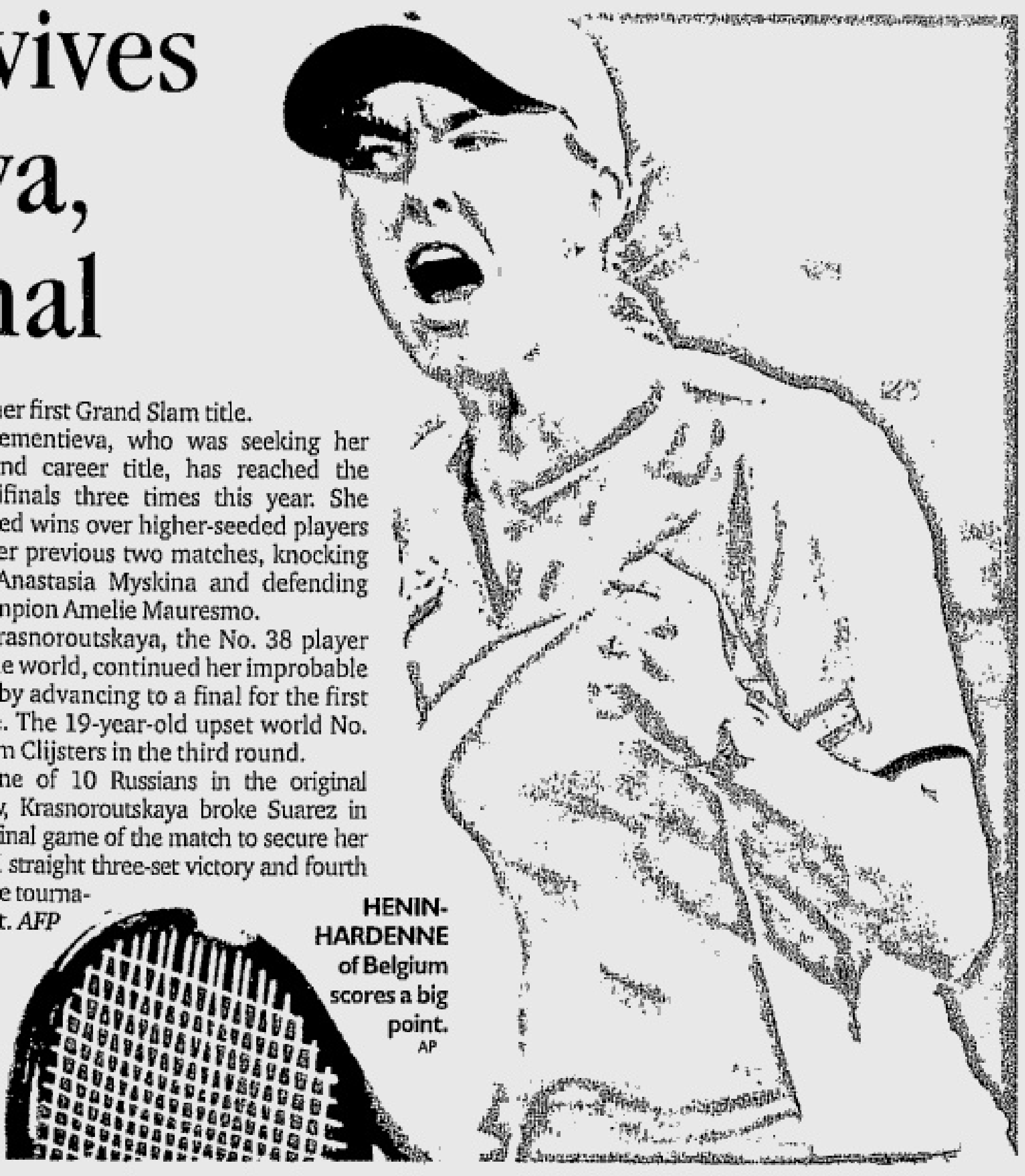
Saturday's night match featured the sixth meeting and third this year in the developing rivalry between French Open champion Henin-Hardenne and Dementieva. The pair split their previous two match-ups, both of which went three sets.

Henin-Hardenne bounced back from dropping the second-set tiebreaker to advance to her seventh WTA Tour final of the year. She is 5-1 in those finals, including her triumph at Roland Garros for her first Grand Slam title.

Dementieva, who was seeking her second career title, has reached the semifinals three times this year. She posted wins over higher-seeded players in her previous two matches, knocking off Anastasia Myskina and defending champion Amelie Mauresmo.

Krasnoroutskaya, the No. 38 player in the world, continued her improbable run by advancing to a final for the first time. The 19-year-old upset world No. 1 Kim Clijsters in the third round.

One of 10 Russians in the original draw, Krasnoroutskaya broke Suarez in the final game of the match to secure her third straight three-set victory and fourth of the tournament. *AFP*



HENIN-HARDENNE of Belgium scores a big point. AP

Boyhood chums set up title clash

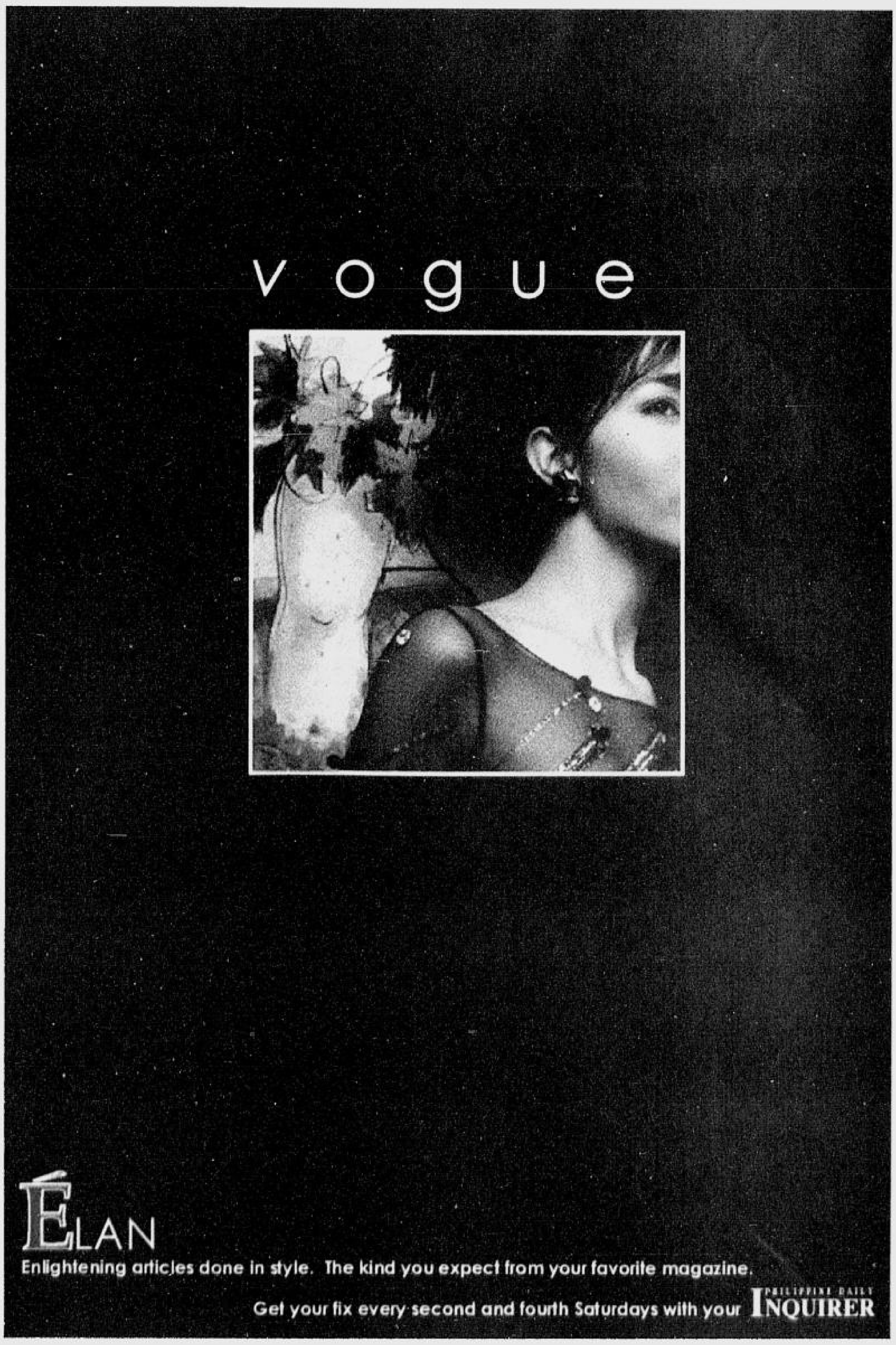
CINCINNATI, Ohio—Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish will play the big final match they dreamed about as boyhood friends on Sunday at the Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati.

Seventh-seeded Roddick moved one step away from capturing his fifth title of the year with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 semifinal win over Max Mirnyi of Belarus in the first semifinal.

Then 41st-ranked Fish, playing the best tennis of his career but still without a title on the ATP tour, earned his spot against Roddick with a hard fought 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (8/6) victory over eighth-seeded Rainer Schuettler of Germany.

"It's something we always dreamed about, playing in a final, back when we were 17 and living together," said the 21-year-old Fish, who resided in Roddick's Boca Raton household for his junior year in high school.

"We go way back," said the 20-year-old Roddick of his childhood buddy. "I mean, he lived at my house through our junior year of high school. I mean, literally, five feet away from my door was where he stayed. So we were more like brothers that year where we'd fight sometimes—we definitely know each other pretty well." The two have played on two previous occasions—Fish won their battle in Delray Beach this past March when Roddick retired in the first round with an ankle injury. Roddick won their last meeting two weeks ago. *AFP*



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ARLINGTON MILLION

Hall of Fame jockey hurt in fall

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Illinois—Gary Stevens toppled from his horse at the finish, came within inches (centimeters) of having his head trampled and lay motionless on the turf for a frighteningly long time.

When he finally stood up, Stevens had one question: Who won?

It took a while to sort out, but it wasn't Stevens.

The Hall of Fame jockey's horse, Storming Home, was disqualified from Saturday's Arlington Million for veering into the path of eventual-winner Sulamani and two others at the finish line.

Just before the wire, Storming Home drifted to the right and then suddenly bolted several feet (meters) to the outside after the finish. The move knocked Stevens off the horse a few yards (meters) past the finish line as the rest of the field galloped by.

Stevens, whose shoulder was stepped on, lay on the ground motionless for about five minutes as a stunned gallery looked on. He eventually sat up and moved his legs before being carried off on a stretcher and taken to a hospital.

Stevens, who has a starring role in the movie "Seabiscuit," was the only rider to fall. He was able to avoid serious danger because Storming Home had veered so far to the outside it put him a safe distance from the rest of the field.

Stevens was listed in stable condition after having his shoulder X-rayed. He was conscious and even inquired about the finish, according to Chaplain Dennis Nelson.

"Everything appears to be fine. He's moving his arms and legs," said Craig O'Bryan, Stevens' California-based agent who saw the race on television.

The spill was the latest in a spate of jockey accidents in the last two months. Two jockeys fractured vertebra in their backs in a five-horse spill at Del Mar on Wednesday, and two more were hurt in a three-horse spill at Belmont Park in July.

The harrowing end came at the finish of what was one of the strongest fields ever for the Million.

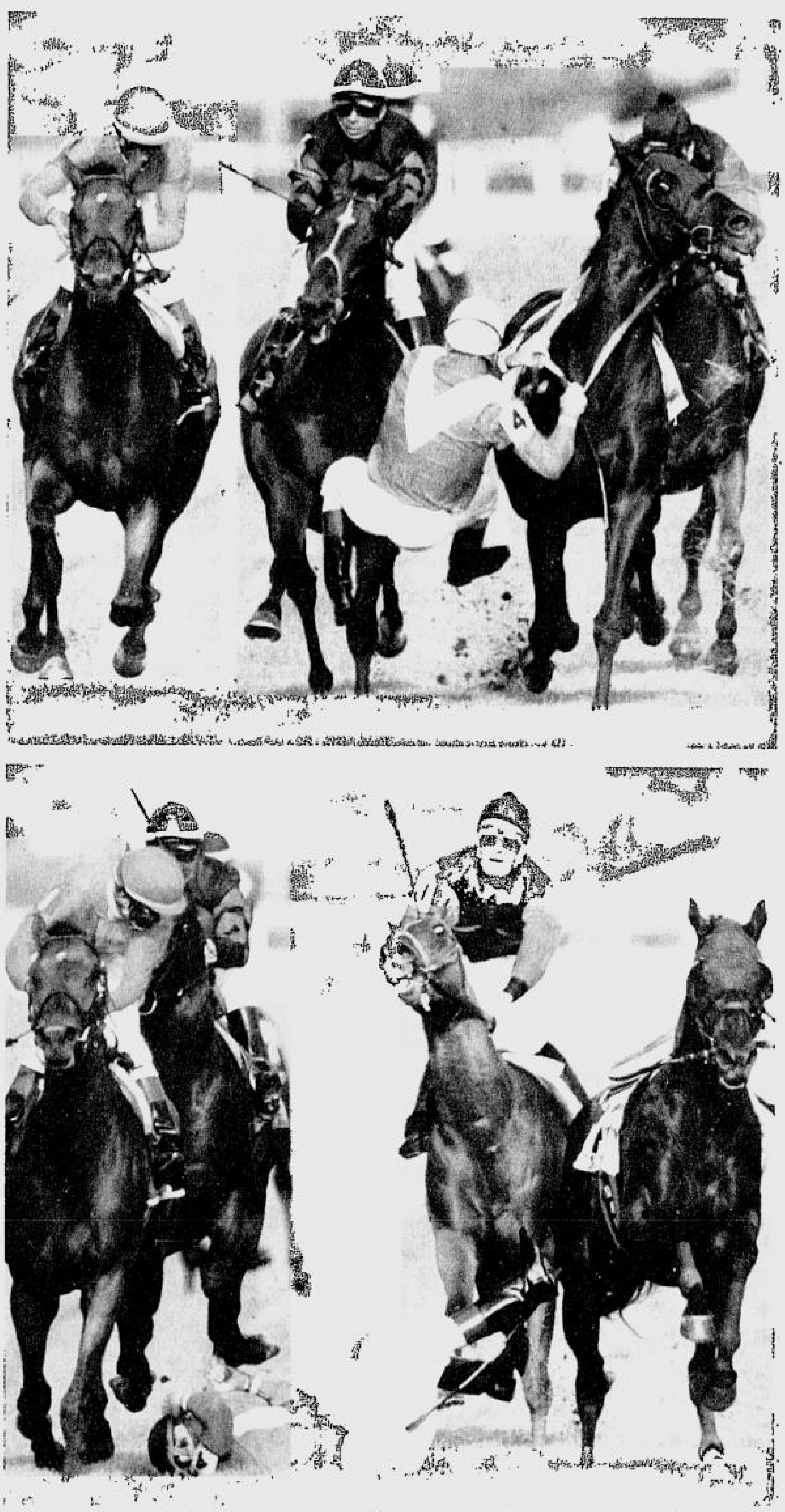
Storming Home and Sulamani were running fourth and fifth at the mile mark and began to make their move around the final turn. They both caught leader Perfect Soul down the stretch, with Storming Home edging past Sulamani about 20 yards (meters) before the wire.

Storming Home finished a half-length ahead of Sulamani, but the stewards disqualified him for running into the path of Sulamani and two others. It wasn't clear what caused Storming Home to bolt.

Sulamani, owned by Sheik Mohammed's Dubai-based Godolphin Racing Inc, was held out of workouts because of a bruised foot earlier in the week.

The European star was the early favorite after a runner-up finish in his last start in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

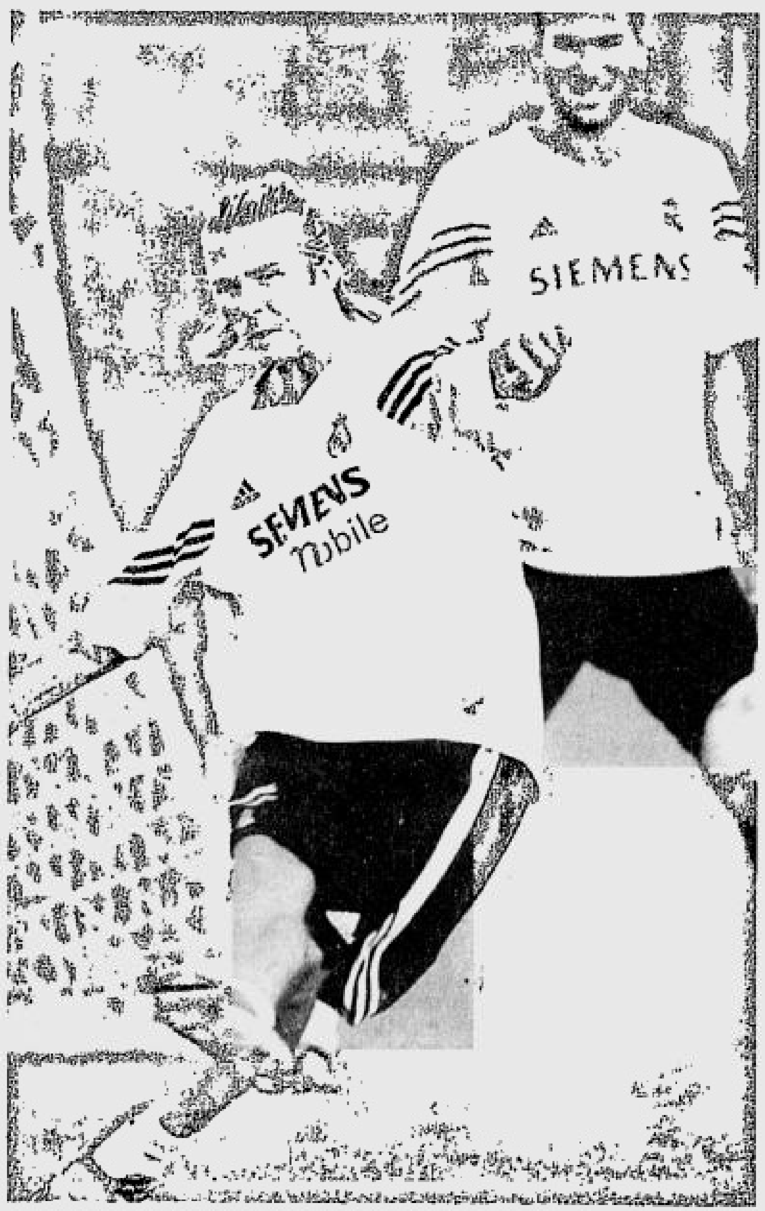
"We would have much preferred not to have won in this manner," racing manager Simon Crisford said. "It was a shame that Storming Home could not keep the victory." *AP*



HALL of Fame jockey Gary Stevens (above photos) falls from Storming Home as David Flores aboard Sulamani, far left, and R.R. Douglas aboard Kaieteur, center, try to avoid a collision after crossing the finish line of the Arlington Million on Saturday. Honor in War with Jose Valdivia Jr. is at rear right. Storming Home, initial winner, was disqualified and Sulamani was declared winner. After falling, Stevens eventually sat up and moved his legs before being carried off in a stretcher and taken to the hospital. AP

Manchester booters prove there's life after Beckham

Teenage sensation shines in 4-0 win over Bolton



REAL Madrid's David Beckham (left) shoots a fault in front of teammate Zinedine Zidane during their practice session in Madrid on Saturday. Beckham will play his first match in Spain with Real Madrid today when it faces Valencia in a friendly. REUTERS

MANCHESTER, England—Manchester United conclusively proved that there is life without David Beckham, as Ryan Giggs and teenage debutant Cristiano Ronaldo shone in a 4-0 opening day win over Bolton on Saturday.

Giggs showed he can fill in admirably for Beckham in terms of free kicks, opening the scoring on 35 minutes with a stunning strike before adding a second with a 74th-minute knock-in.

Paul Scholes and Ruud van Nistelrooy completed the rout, but it was second-half substitute Ronaldo—Beckham's successor in the number seven shirt—who most thrilled the Old Trafford crowd.

The 18-year-old Portuguese prospect cost United more than 12 million pounds (19 million dollars) this summer, and looked a star in the making with a hugely confident and stylish debut.

He even won a 71st-minute penalty, but the usually reliable van Nistelrooy saw his effort saved brilliantly by Bolton keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Despite the result, Bolton manager Sam Allardyce said his side had been somewhat hard done by on this year's Premiership opener.

"Four-nil looks like a bit of a thrashing, but it was not that," he insisted.

Even with the departure of Beckham to Real Madrid and Juan Sebestian Veron to Chelsea, Reds' manager Alex Ferguson unveiled a familiar-looking starting line-up, with US goalkeeper Tim Howard the only newcomer. *AFP*

Russian gymnasts rebound

ANAHEIM, California—These are likely the last world championships in Alexei Nemov's long, illustrious career, and the Russian wasn't about to see them end early.

With the Russians' medal chances seemingly flat on the mat after an inopportune injury to one of his teammates in the first event, the Olympic all-around champion rescued them. Using his spectacular skills and trademark grace, he didn't score lower than a 9.487 in his four events.

By the end of the night, the Russians had moved all the way up to third place. They finished with 223.380 points, behind both Japan (227.046) and Romania (224.770).

Defending world champion Belarus wasn't nearly as fortunate. It struggled after losing a gymnast in the third rotation, and is in seventh place, almost assured of not winning another title. The top eight teams advance to Tuesday's finals. *AP*

Probe up . . .

From page A30

Camañero said the incident happened at Po's stable at Santa Ana after he had finished exercising horses. "*Pinapunta po ako ng* assistant trainer *sa kwadra dahil gusto raw akong makausap ni* Mr. Po. *Pero pagdating ko doon, may kinuhang baril sa kanyang sasakyan nya si* Mr. Po *at itinutok sa akin* ("I was told by the assistant trainer to go to the stable but when I got there, Mr. Po got his gun in his car and pointed it at me)," he said.

Camañero added Po threatened him by allegedly saying: "*Kaya kong bayaran ang buhay mo. Papatayin kita* (I can buy your life. I will kill you)."

The jockey added that the assistant trainer, a certain Cogie, then intervened and told him to run away. "*Tapos po nagtago na ako.* (Then I just hid myself)."

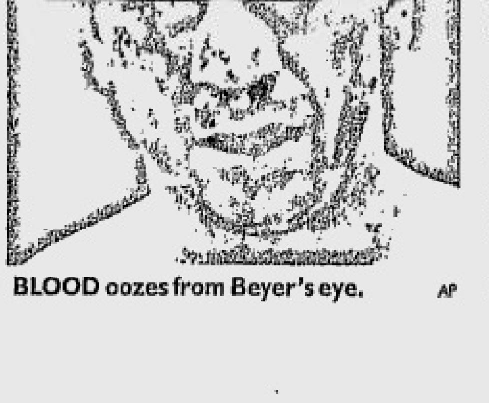
Camañero also told the Criminal Investigation Division of the Makati Police that there were several witnesses to the incident.

Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat said Marho strongly urged the Philracom to conduct the probe because Camañero's complaints, aside from damaging the reputation of horse owners, also "tend to erode efforts of all industry players to raise the level of public confidence in horse racing."

In a letter (dated Aug. 13) addressed to the Philracom headed by chair Jimmy Dilag, Puyat said that the racing body should punish Po if he's found guilty of the accusations.

The INQUIRER tried to get Po's side but he was not available.

Philracom commissioner-executive director Eduardo "Eddie" Jose said Po, Camañero and some of the witnesses have been summoned by the Philracom to the hearing slated on Wednesday, Aug. 20.



BLOOD oozes from Beyer's eye. AP

Rival's headbutt enables Beyer to keep WBC title

NUERBURGRING, Germany—Germany's Markus Beyer retained his WBC middleweight title Saturday when Australia's Danny Green was disqualified for a headbutt.

Green, leading on the scorecards, was ruled to have intentionally butted the German on a deep cut above his left eye, leading the fight to be stopped.

The Australian, 16-1, had built a big lead by flooring Beyer in the first and second round with powerful right uppercuts.

"I'm disappointed, I'm really upset," Green said. "That was not intentional."

US referee Bill Clancy first ruled that the Australian should be penalized two points, sending the fight to the scorecards, which probably would have made Green the eighth world champion from his country.

But after a long discussion with the judges and the WBC delegate, Green was disqualified. The ring doctor ruled Beyer could not continue, since he couldn't see out of his left eye.

"He intentionally butted him—you'll see it on the tape," Clancy told the angry Green camp.

Beyer's record is 28-1 with 11 knockouts, his one loss coming when he lost the WBC title for the first time when British fighter Glenn Catley stunned him with a 12th round knockout.

Green, who had knocked out all 16 of his previous opponents, sent Beyer to the canvas with 46 seconds in the first round, attacking ferociously from the start.

But by the fourth, the German recovered and jarred Green with a straight left, setting off a brutal fight in which both fighters were smeared with blood from Beyer's deep cut.

Green's trainer is Australian boxing legend Jeff Fenech, who held titles at three weights.

"I wouldn't have sent him over here if I didn't think he was ready," Fenech said of his protege.

Green appeared more than ready at first for the experienced German during a fight held in a tent set up at the Nuerburgring Formula One track.

He tagged Beyer with a left in the first round, then the short right which sent the German sprawling straight-legged onto his back. *AP*

PAN AM GAMES

Dominican spikers win

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Thousands of Dominican fans celebrated the country's 10th gold medal at the Pan American Games in dramatic fashion while George Bovell of Trinidad and Tobago won his second swimming gold medal.

The hosts held off a tough Cuban team 3-2 Saturday to win its third gold medal of the day. The Dominicans won the first two sets, but Cuba stretched the match to a deciding fifth set before falling 25-16, 25-17, 14-25, 26-28, 15-13.

The match was delayed for about 30 minutes after police fired a spray similar to tear gas at a crowd of people trying to get into the arena.

PUERTO Rican rider Mark Watring jumps an obstacle on Sapphire to win the equestrian gold medal. AFP

Authorities said many of the people outside had tickets, but there was no room for them inside the 8,000-capacity arena. Spray seeped inside and both teams were forced to stop practicing and go back to the locker rooms.

The Dominicans also won gold Saturday in boxing and taekwondo.

Bovell won the men's 200 individual medley in swimming with a time of 1 minute, 59.49 seconds. Earlier in the competition, he won gold in the 200 freestyle and silver in the 100 freestyle to become Trinidad's most successful swimmer in the history of the games.

It was another good day for the Americans in the pool, collecting three more golds to bring their tally to 21 in swimming.

Jamie Reid won the 200 backstroke, Kara Lynn Joyce earned gold in the women's 50 freestyle. In the final swimming event of the games, the American men's 4x100 medley relay team set a competition record. *AP*

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Django, Bata, Pagulayan versus 'Rest of the World'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FLAMBOYANT Francisco "Django" Bustamante has proven beyond doubt that he is sharper, better and more capable than the toughest players and most dynamic shooters on the international pro billiards tour.

On Friday (Manila time), Bustamante won the International Challenge of Champions, 9-Ball tournament at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, beating John Horsfall of Canada, 2 sets to 1, to succeed Puyat Sports teammate Efren "Bata" Reyes. For the victory, Bustamante earned a fat paycheck of $50,000 (roughly P2.7 million).

Clearly, the 39-year-old Bustamante is the man of the moment.

Born on Dec. 29, 1963 in Tarlac, Bustamante first made an impact on the international billiards scene in 1998 when he was named Player of the Year by the US-based magazine Billiards Digest. He pocketed more than P5 million in the process. It was a feat, albeit unlikely, for one who did not even finish high school like Reyes. But Bustamante had the good fortune to grow up with helpful friends, have a patient teacher in Bata Reyes and the generous support of brothers Jose "Popit" and Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of Puyat Sports.

With his extraordinary long reach, booming breaks and creativity, Bustamante became a dominant pool player, winning one major tournament after another, including victories in the 2002 Japan Open and the 2001 World Pool Masters in Essex, United Kingdom, where he nosed out many-time world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland. However, Strickland exacted revenge by beating Bustamante in the nail-biting finals of last year's World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

Reyes, on the other hand, has been the subject of virtually every pool-related topic ever since he won the 1999 World Pool Championship. Known as "The Magician" in billiards circle, the 48-year-old Reyes, a native of Angeles, Pampanga, topped the 2001 World Pool League in Poland, the Tokyo 9-Ball International championship and the US Masters 9-Ball Championship in Chesapeake, Virginia. He was also a three-time World 8-Ball champion (back-to-back in 1995 and 1996 and 2000) in Las Vegas; SEA Games medal winner in Jakarta in 1987 and Brunei in 1999; PSA Athlete of the Year (1999); recipient of the Philippine Legion of Honor, and, also in 1999, emerged the most admired Filipino athlete in a nationwide survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations, receiving the votes of 33 percent of 1,200 respondents.

Reyes became a living legend in billiards, putting the Philippines in the world map, even though he did not receive a single centavo from the government in all his international campaign.

At present, there is a popular clamor to form a powerhouse Philippine team composed of Reyes, Bustamante and, possibly, Canada-based Filipino sensation Alex Pagulayan and a fourth player (US-resident Amang Parica, perhaps?) that will do battle against "The Rest of the World" led by reigning Cardiff World Pool champion Throsten Hohmann of Germany, Mika Immonen of Finland and American legends Earl Strickland and Johnny Archer.

I hope Puyat Sports, the country's pool pioneer, heeds the clamor to stage this star-studded event because it would not only take away the world's attention from the troubles that beset the Philippines today, but it would also lift the spirits of many Filipinos who are disheartened by the prevailing hard and difficult times.

***

THE PAST OLYMPIANS. In 1960 in Rome, Ethiopian Abebe Bikila stunned the world by winning the marathon in what was the fastest time ever, while running barefoot. In 1964 in Tokyo, with shoes on, Bikila became the first man to successfully defend his Olympic marathon title, in record time too. The Tokyo Games also produced other legends such as American sprinter Bob Hayes, who confirmed his claim as the "World's Fastest Human" and boxer Joe Frazier, a Philadelphia butcher, who won the heavyweight gold medal even though he fought with an injured broken right hand.

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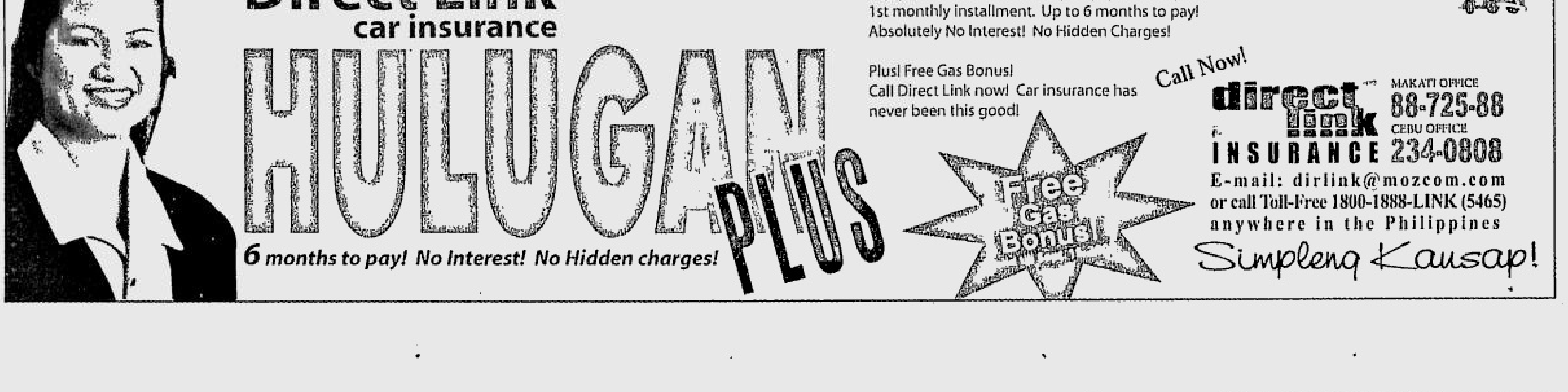

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SANTA ANA INCIDENT

Probe set on gun-toting horse owner

By Edwin Villanueva

A RACE horse owner is now in hot water after threatening to kill a jockey who disobeyed his order to throw away a race on the owner's galloper.

The incident involving Alfredo Po and Class D rider Dennis L. Camañero will be the subject of a probe to be conducted this week by the Philippine Racing Commission, local racing's governing body.

The hearing was set after the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners (Marho), the country's premier group of owners and breeders, urged the racing body over the weekend to conduct a thorough investigation because the incident is "damaging the reputation of horse owners."

In his sworn affidavit before Makati Prosecutor I Alex Bagaoisan, Camañero alleged that Po poked a gun at him and threatened to kill him last Aug. 9 because he did not follow the latter's instruction to lose aboard Top Quest during the Aug. 8 racing card at the Santa Ana Park.

"*Ang* order *nya* (Po) *po ay ipatalo si* Top Quest *pero di ko magawa kasi natakot ako na baka masuspindi po ako ng isang taon*," (Mr. Po ordered me to lose the race atop Top Quest but I couldn't do it for fear of getting a one year suspension)," said the 22-year-old Camañero, a former promising apprentice, whose mount won as a longshot.

PROBE/ A28

MILO MARATHON

Corpuz outkicks Antoque in Olongapo 20K elims

OLONGAPO CITY—Mamerto Corpuz produced the bigger kicks to beat veteran Rey Antoque yesterday in the 20-kilometer regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon here.

Corpuz timed one hour, eight minutes and 12 seconds in bagging his first leg title.

Antoque, a winner of nine legs and one national title here, clocked one hour, nine minutes and 11 seconds.

"*Malakas talaga itong batang ito. Sinubukan ko siyang habulin sa may hulihan pero kinapos ako,*" (This boy is strong. I tried to catch him up but I lost steam)," said the 47-year-old Antoque of his fellow Armyman.

Antoque also placed second here last year behind Romeo Marquez.

The 26-year-old Corpuz will return to the national finals in Metro Manila on Oct. 19 along with the top three finishers in the women's division. He placed fifth in last year's 42-kilometer final.

ANTOQUE

"*Kung ganito ang itatakbo niya* (Corpuz) *sa* Maynila, *papasok ito sa* top three (If he'll run that way in Manila, he'll make it to the top three)," said Antoque.

Corpuz added that he will train rigorously in the next two months in preparation for the final of this annual marathon held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism, MyGlobe and Powerbar.

The distaff side was ruled by back-to-back winner Hazel Madamba of the Philippine Navy stationed in Olongapo City. She finished the 20-k race in one hour, 24 minutes and 22 seconds.

The 26-year-old Madamba crossed the line 10 minutes and 58 seconds ahead of second placer Enate Sayrol, also of the Navy.

Norma Maranion placed third with a time of 1:48:42.

The men's and women's 5-kilometer race was ruled by Frederick Valencia (16:27) and Aira Cos (21:12).

The winners in the 3-k Kiddies run were Ferdinand Arojo and Angeline Velnzuela in the 6-9 age group and Jansen Dacumos and Venessa Sugalan in the 10-12 category.

More than 8,300 runners answered the opening gun in front of the Olongapo City Hall. The gun for the 20-k and 3-k events was fired by Olongapo city Councilor Gregorio Elane.

V'zuela, Mexico IXs win

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pennsylvania—Juan Rivera and Jimali Fermin each hit home runs Saturday to power Altagracia, Venezuela past Agana, Guam, 9-0 at the Little League World Series.

Venezuela tallied five runs in the first inning to take control of the game. Jhonny Sandrea and Adis Portillo hit back-to-back singles and Chancellor San Miguel committed a throwing error, allowing one run to cross the plate before a fielder's choice grounder and Edixon Martinez's infield single drove in the second run.

Rivera then hit the first pitch from losing pitcher Reyn Johnson to center field for a three-run homer and 5-0 advantage.

Venezuela scored four times in the sixth to put the game out of reach.

Diego Espinosa and Alejandro Manjarrez hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning to lead Mexico City to a 2-1 victory over Moscow.

Espinosa's home run easily cleared the center field wall. Manjarrez, batting next, sent a homer over the wall in left.

AP

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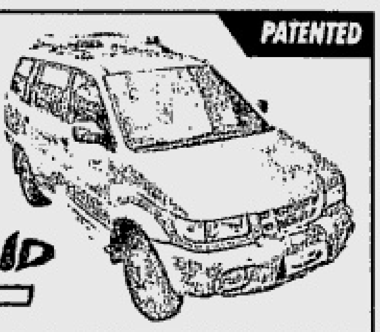

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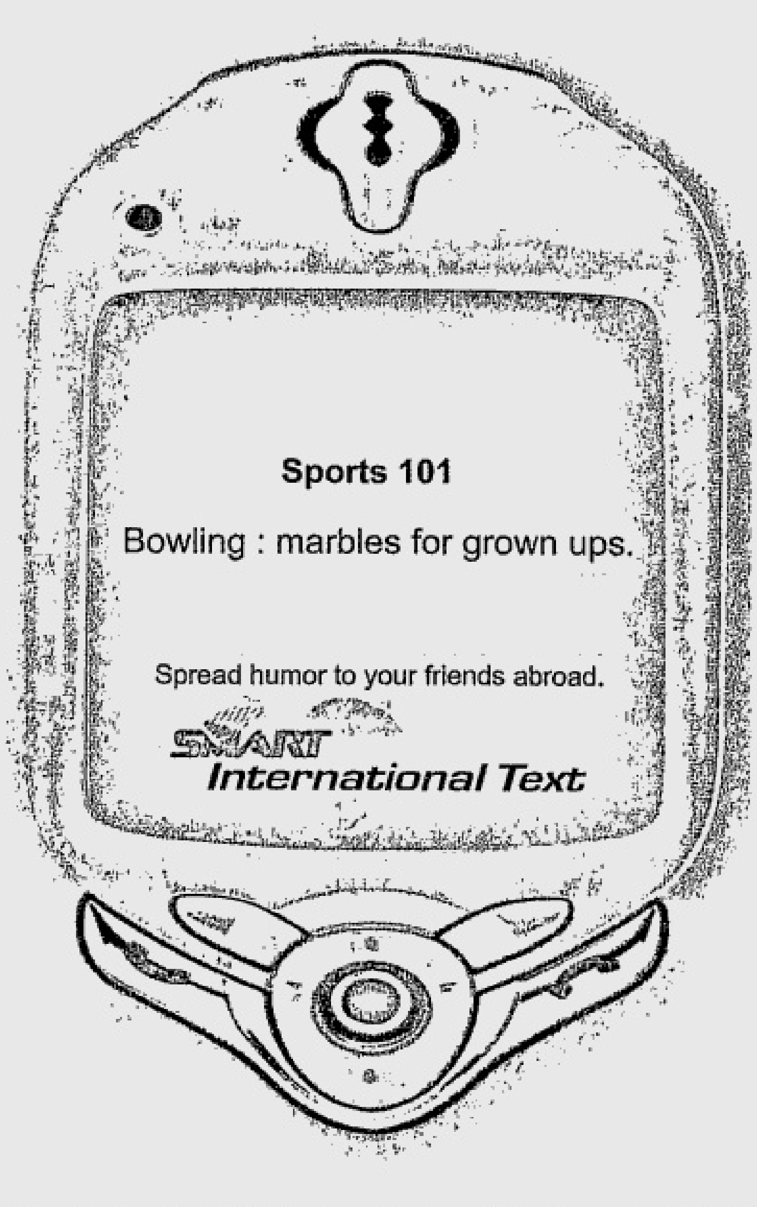

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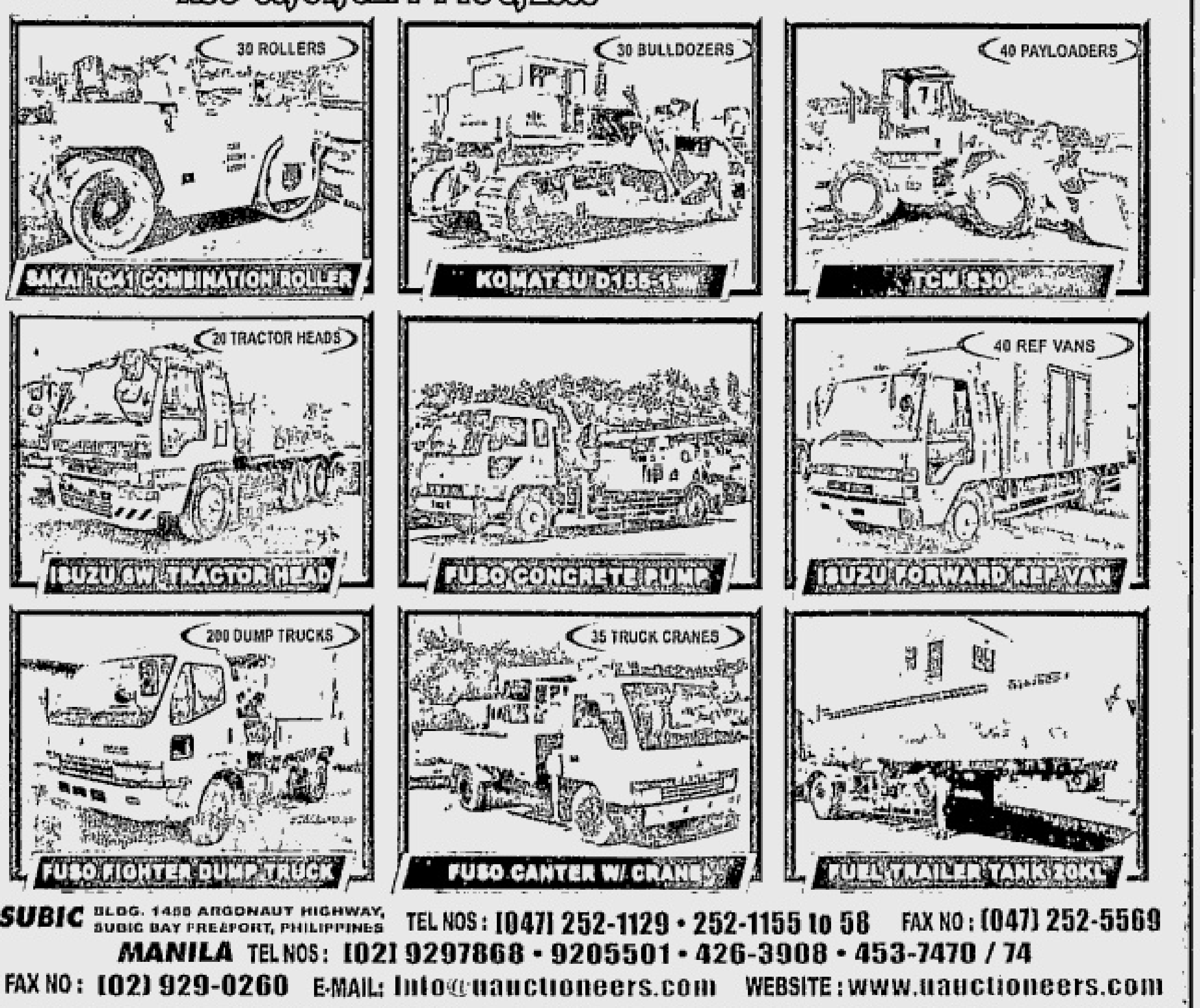

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OFW remittances up 8% in 1st 6 months

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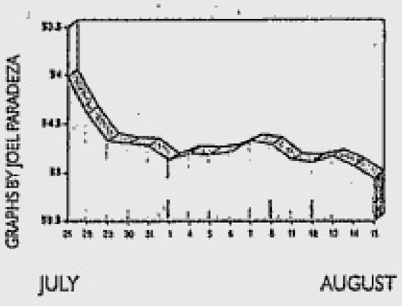

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 15, 2003

GOLD: $ 363.50-364.00

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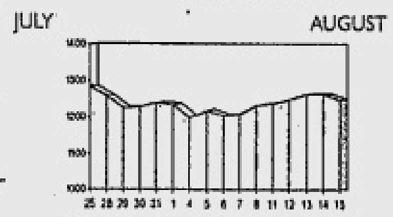
STOCK MARKET

Lackluster trading seen

THE BEARS are seen to dominate the local stock market this week following new security concerns triggered by the bombing in Jakarta and the renewed peso volatility arising from the court order suspending top Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials for a year.

LACKLUSTER/ B6

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

By Clarissa S. Batino

MONEY sent by close to eight million Filipinos working overseas grew by 8 percent in the first half to $3.88 billion from $3.59 billion a year ago despite a slight decline in inflow in June as the number of overseas workers who left for employment abroad shrunk during the month.

In June, OFW remittances slid 0.6 percent to $591.31 million from $594.89 million in the same period in 2002. The June inflow was lower by 21 percent or $159.4 million from $750.71 million in May.

OFW remittances help boost the supply of dollars in the spot market and keep the peso stable.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that deployment of Filipino workers overseas was down 13 percent to 69,536 in June from 79,918 in the same month last year. As a result, deployment of new hires and rehires declined by 4.8 percent in the first semester to 460,782 from 484,169 a year ago.

From a forecast of a flat growth, the BSP said it was now expecting overseas remittances to improve by 6 percent this year to about $7.6 billion from $7.2 billion in 2002. The rosier scenario is for OFW inflow to hit the $8-billion mark.

The central bank said there had been a marked slowdown in demand for land-based workers, thus the decline in the number of deployment.

However, the central said that the slowdown affected mostly the low-income workers like domestic helpers as the number of caregivers, engineers, performing artists and other high-paying jobs actually increased.

The growth in remittances could be sustained as more Filipinos leave for high-paying jobs, according to a BSP official.

In June, the number of land-based OFWs slid by 17.5 percent to 51,747 from 62,745 while sea-based workers increased by 3.6 percent to 17,789 from 17,173 in the same period last year.

In the first half, the level of land-based workers went down by 7.6 percent to 349,928 from 378,556 in January-June 2002. Sea-based workers grew in number as of June to 110,854, up 5 percent from 105,613 a year ago.

From January to May, the number of caregivers, engineers and performing artists more than doubled on a yearly basis from 4,900 to 10,100 while the number of domestic helpers went down to 20,700 from 27,000 in the same period in 2002.

The level of dollar remittances had picked up from the observed slowdown during the first few months when prospects of employment abroad became less attractive due to uncertainties caused by the US-Iraq war, which was followed by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus.

While both concerns have eased, deployment this year remained lower compared to 2002, according to the labor department.

The observed slowdown has prompted the central bank to assume a flat growth in OFW remittances this year in drafting its external payments target. Dollar remittances form part of the country's current account, a big component of the balance-of-payments position.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that as of the first week of July, deployment was lower by about 4 percent compared to the previous year when new hires and rehires who left the country reached 495,000.

Sto. Tomas said her department was targeting to deploy a

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Charlie's angles

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WE are happy to report that the "suspension" of Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura is not traceable to his elementary school principal.

Well, it was the lone journalistic angle which was left for me to speculate on, as reports already touched on all possible journalistic angles, including extraterrestrial force.

But the Bangko Sentral has yet to dismiss the role of guys from outer space, much less that of his school principal, in Paeng's much talked about "suspension."

For one, it does not have an official copy of the "suspension" order yet.

At the moment, therefore, the central bank is still in limbo. Officially.

* * *

ACTUALLY, the Court of Appeals ordered the suspension of Paeng and four other Bangko Sentral officials—and not just for 364 days, but for one whole year.

It means that, if the suspension takes effect today, they can resume their sensitive jobs in managing the monetary system only after the showing of Charlie's Angels Part III or the 2004 elections. Oops.

Simply, the ruling had something to do with Urban Bank, which collapsed after its officers closed the bank just like that on their own. They invented their own "holiday."

* * *

AGAIN, that was three years ago in 2000. That's why, perhaps surprised by the rather belated ruling, various journalists had to explore numerous journalistic angles.

That Malacañang issued no statement of support for the "suspended" officials, somehow fired up the search for all those journalistic angles.

This cute administration of Gloriaetta, for instance, if only to calm down the nervous capital markets, did not say anything about Paeng doing well in his job.

The capital markets thus took such an absence of Palace support as a sign that things are not well between Paeng and this cute administration. Bad for business!

* * *

UNKIND rumors, moreover, started going around in business. In effect, the "suspension" had something to do with the up-and-coming huge bank account.

It is under the fictitious name of Joe "V." Based on the rumors, it is kept in a subsidiary of a big local bank, already amounting to several billions of pesos.

Documents which can prove the existence of the account, supposedly, landed in the hands of some bad elements of society known as politicians.

* * *

AND so rumors persisted that somebody is moving heaven and earth to wipe out any trace of the huge bank account from the face of the entire universe.

Now, if the rumors are true, it's indeed a fantastic story. It is not easy to get rid of such things as records on check deposits.

For one, the checks must pass through clearing. Not only that, all the records of the check clearing house are on microfilm. You know—no tampering!

Thus, the paper trail in any bank account is impossible to wipe out, because it is longer than the period when the Marcos dictatorship stayed in power.

* * *

LET'S say something comes up. For instance, the opposition gets a copy of the checks which were deposited in the Joe "V" account. Surely, Charlie, it becomes an explosive issue for journalistic angles here and abroad.

If the records of those same checks are missing from the clearing house, are we in trouble, mama!

It means that somebody succeeded in erasing them. The integrity of the banking system becomes suspect. That's why nobody in his right mind will agree to tampering with the clearing house's microfilm—and all for covering somebody's as…

* * *

TRUE or not, all that speculation is going around. That is the sad part. Media is relentless in finding all sorts of journalistic angles. It is affecting the capital markets.

Only three days before the "suspension" ruling sprouted, reports came out that Malacañang was putting pressure on Paeng to resign.

Another report said that THE firm, which is said to be exceptionally close to Gloriaetta, had something to do with the ruling.

Indeed, some business people fear THE firm. But for reports to say that THE firm can and does dictate upon the courts, is a journalistic angle that's … well, interesting.

* * *

MAKE no mistake, the "suspension" is a monumental ruling. I don't remember anybody as high in government as the central bank governor being suspended ever.

That's why the business sector reacted to the surprise ruling. Leaders in big business did not spare words in saying that they did not like it.

The peso crumbled against the dollar due to the ruling. Nobody can say if all those big-time dollar hoarders had anything to do with it. They just make a killing.

* * *

CERTAINLY, business is the loser in this affair. Capital markets also did not like the ruling. What's bad for the capital markets is always bad for business.

Ironically, the case against Paeng which merited his suspension, actually stemmed from his effort to put the financial markets in order.

As I said, it had something to do with the bankrupt Urban Bank, in which Kuya Eddie was also the honorary chair.

Three years ago, the bank suffered from a "run," its officers declared a bank "holiday," and the monetary authorities put it under receivership. Not end of story.

* * *

WITH the bank under their care, the authorities found out some illegal deals in the bank.

That's why they filed criminal cases against the bank officers which are still pending.

It seems that, as the authorities claimed, Urban Bank sacrificed its depositors to favor the investors in its subsidiary known as Urban Investment.

Urban Investment is neither a bank nor an investment house. It only acted like them. It borrowed money and lent out money. Unfortunately it lent out money poorly.

* * *

IT so happened that Urban Investment had big-time depositors. They included relatives of officers of Urban Bank.

And so the Urban Investment investors got paid by Urban Investment, which simply took the money of Urban Bank in exchange for trash (i.e. loan accounts).

Of course, in that case, the bank had no other choice but to collapse, as it did. The poor Urban Bank depositors were left with nothing—not even an empty bag.

* * *

IN trying to help the Urban Bank depositors, some of whom would lose their lifetime savings, the monetary authorities had to put the bank under receivership.

Subsequently, the bank was absorbed by the Export Import Bank. This way, the poor depositors would get everything back to the last centavo, plus a little interest.

And you suspend guys for that?

OFW remittances up 8% in 1st 6 months

From page B1

million Filipinos abroad. In 2002, the POEA said the level of freshly hired and rehired reached 891,908 from 867,599 the previous year.

Foreign exchange inflow from overseas workers comprises nearly 85 percent of the country's gross earnings. It normally accounts for the usual half-a-percentage point difference between the gross domestic product and the gross national product.

Commercial banks report about 85% of total remittances while foreign exchange firms account for 10 percent of the total. The data on the remaining 5 percent come from offshore banking units.

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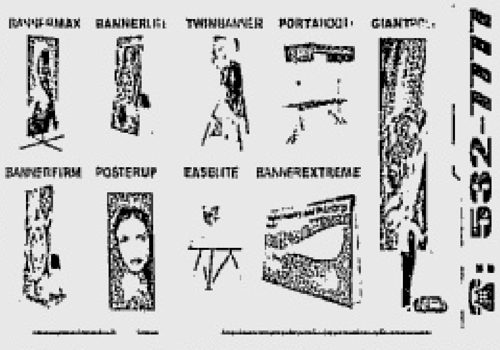

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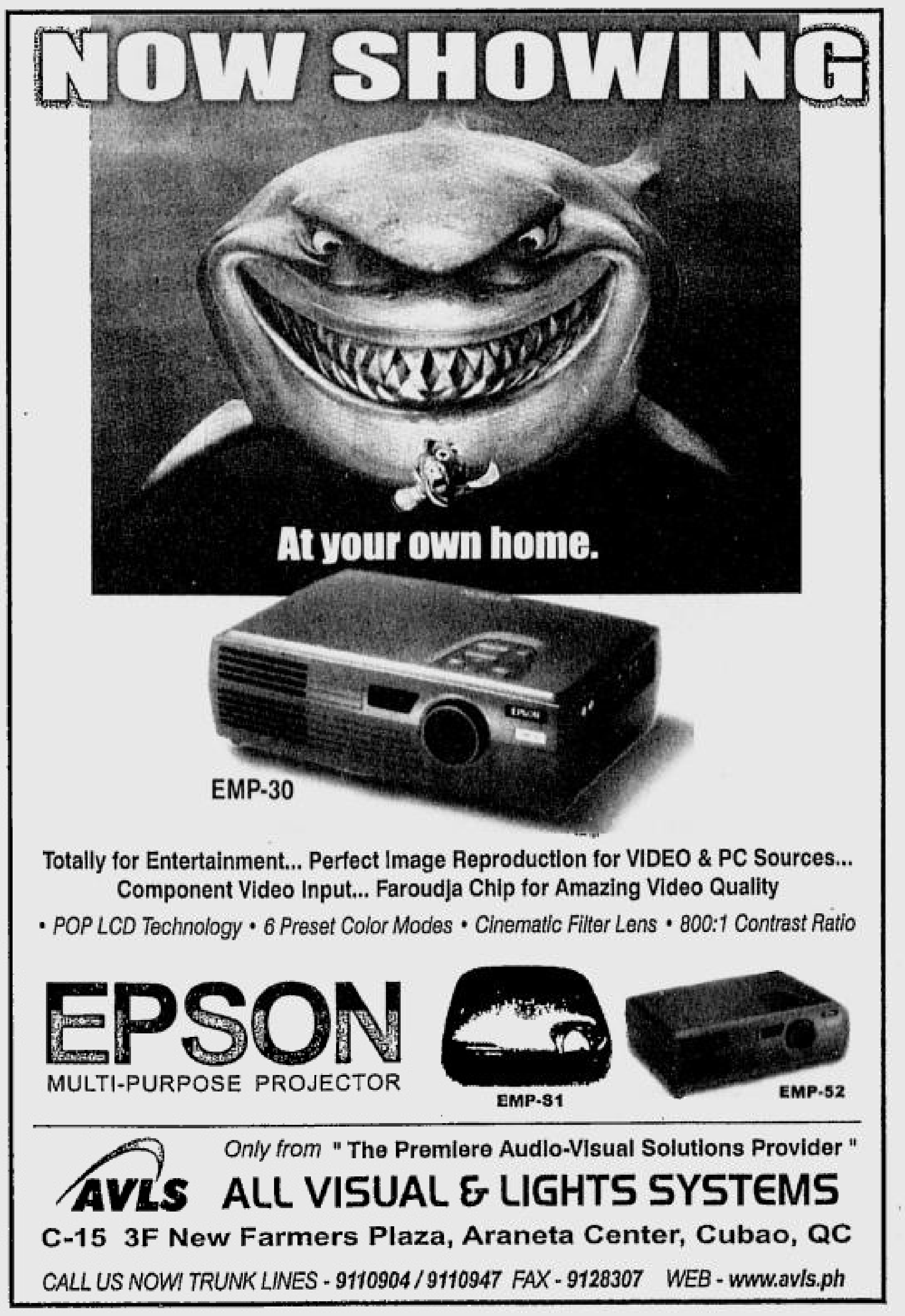

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July budget gap seen below target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit in the first seven months is expected to hit only P94 billion against a ceiling of P119 billion for the period after strong revenues kept the gap below the P17-billion target in July.

The government said the deficit last month ranged from P14 billion to P15 billion, well below the target but more than triple the P4.2-billion budget gap in June.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said there was a good chance the deficit in July would continue to be below target.

The sustained revenue performance in July bolstered expectations that the government

JULY/ B4

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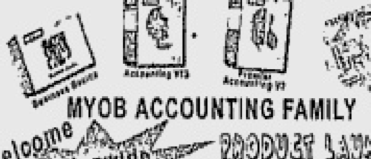

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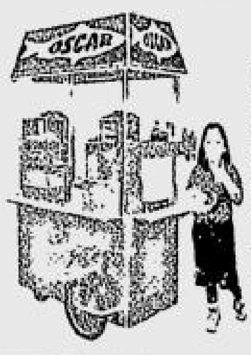

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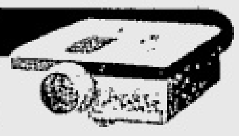
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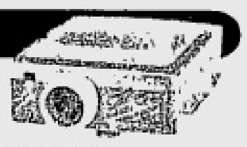
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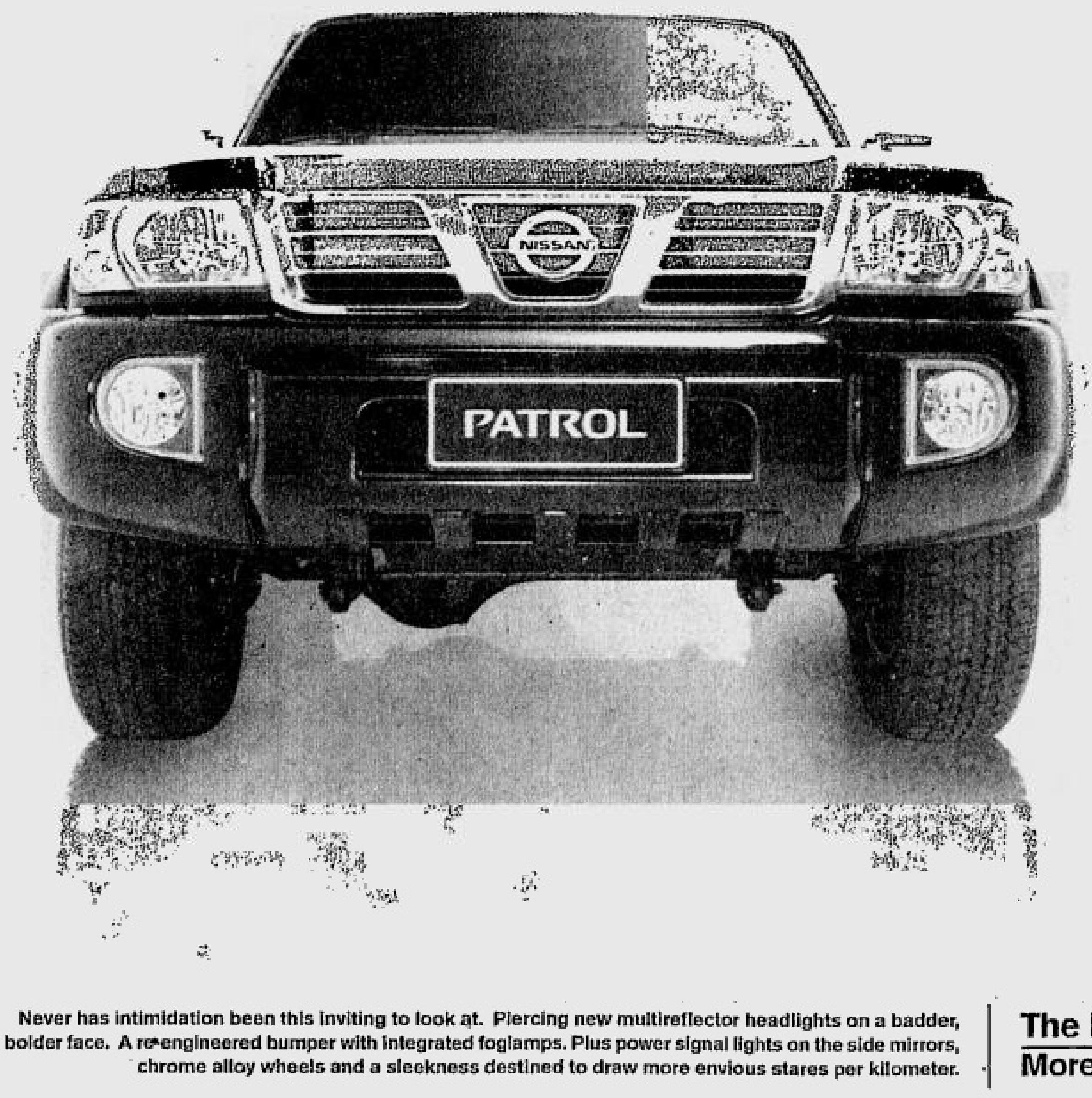

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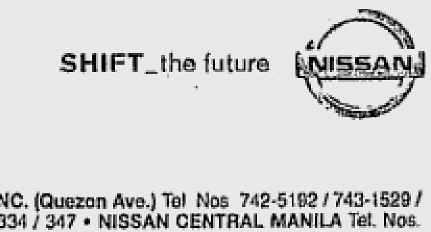

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Gov't issues $175M worth of zero-coupon bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has started taking orders for at least $175 million worth of zero-coupon bonds launched last Friday and are being sold through its sole underwriter, Citigroup.

After September, the government vowed to go back to the overseas market to raise its remaining $400-million foreign financing requirement this year and generate in advance as much as $500 million for 2004.

The issuance of the dollar bonds maturing in 18 months was approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board last Thursday, according to BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the size of the bond issue could go up depending on the price. He said the government was looking at a gross yield-to-maturity that would not exceed 3.3 percent.

The structure of the borrowing is similar to the controversial zero-coupon bonds sold by the government in November 2001. Unlike the regular debt notes, zero coupon bonds allow investors to deduct the interest rate upfront instead of the usual practice of paying upon maturity.

For instance, for a P100 zero-coupon bond issued, the issuer would get about P80 depending on the tenor.

Thus, of $175 million the government would issue, it would only get about $150 million, according to Edeza.

With proceeds of $150 million, the government needed only to raise $250 million for the rest of the year to complete its $1.9-billion foreign borrowing program.

The original size of the foreign borrowing this year was $2.4 billion but was reduced by $500 million in July when the government raised P74.3 billion from the sale of retail treasury bonds. Proceeds of the $750 million worth of 10-year global bonds sold in July were all relent to the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

The dollar bonds launched Friday are the second zeroes to be sold by the government this year. In January, the government issued $200 million worth of one-year zeroes through HSBC.

Last March, Napocor issued $400 million worth of zero coupon bonds through Goldman Sachs in a private placement.

Edeza said the bonds underwritten by Citibank were for public offering, which is scheduled for completion by Aug. 25.

12 bidders vie for $40-M power project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWELVE bidders on Friday submitted their technical and financial proposals to undertake the $40-million transmission line project linking Cebu and Mactan.

Five bidders, which were not included in a previously disclosed list of those who have bought tender documents, showed up: Meiden, China State Construction Engineering Corp.-China National Water, China National Electric Equipment Corp., Hyundai Heavy Industries and Daewoo-Hyundai Engineering.

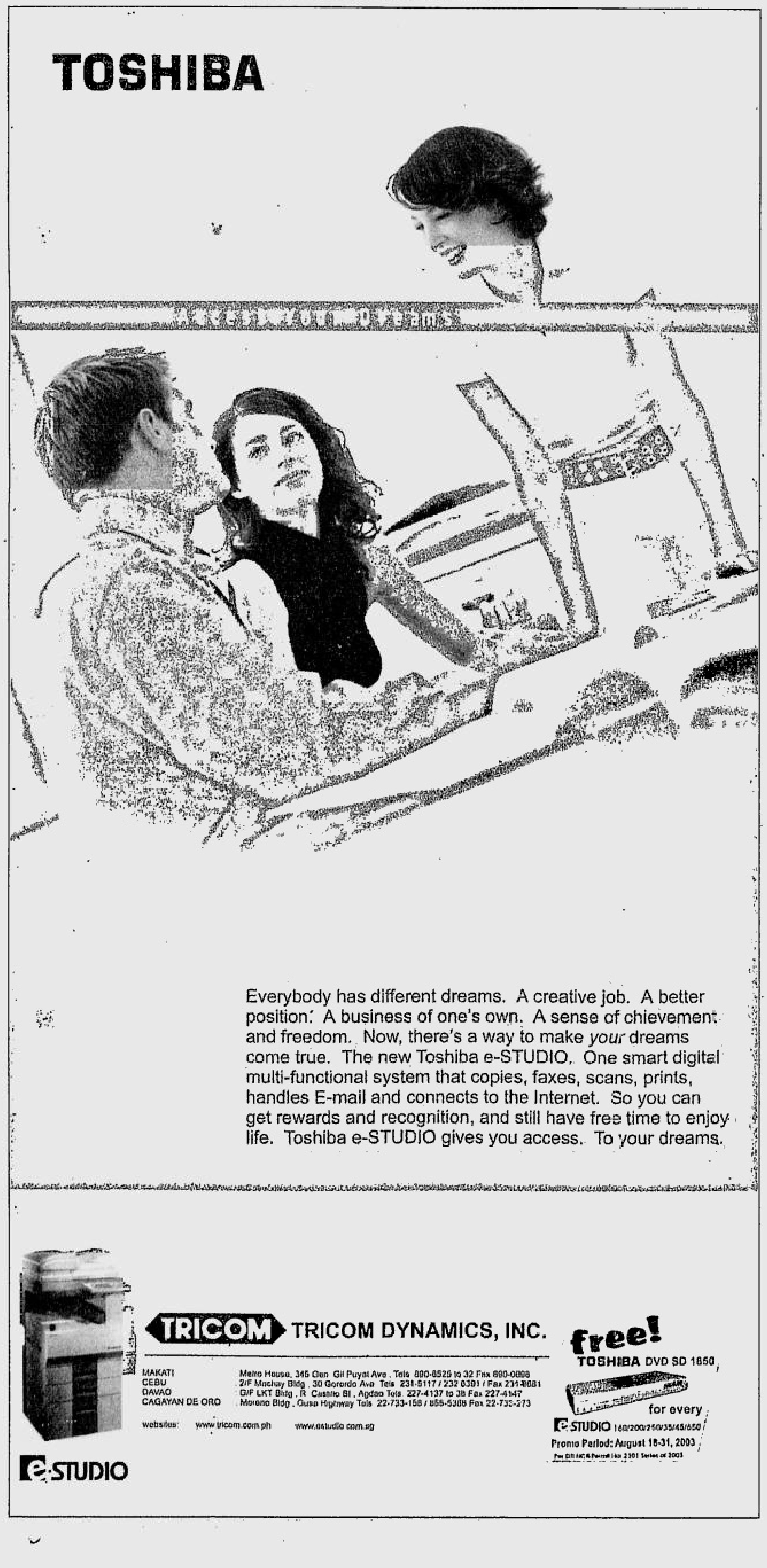
The other bidders included Alstom, Kanematsu-J Power Systems, ABB-Kinden, Mitsubishi, Xian and Siemens.

Japan's Itochu Corp. and Tomen Corp. as well as China's Iljin Electric Co. and Shanxi Machinery, which had bought tender documents, were not able to submit their bids.

A committee is set to evaluate the technical and financial proposals, which officials said normally takes about three months.

Transco president Alan Ortiz on Thursday said the state-firm expected to award the contract to the winning bidder by December.

Ortiz said the project could be finished by October 2005 if work started in January 2004.



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Cielito F. Habito

WHEN it rains, it pours. It seems we just couldn't stop adding more reasons for investors to avoid our country and bring their job-creating capital elsewhere. Never mind SARS, which hurt most economies in our part of the world in the first half of the year; we did not bring that upon ourselves. But the Mindanao bombings, the Piatco imbroglio, the escape of convicted terrorist Fathur Al-Ghozi and the failed Makati mutiny are things that we inflicted on ourselves. The lifting of the state of rebellion last week provided little comfort, as two news items from the Bangko Sentral ang Pilipinas (BSP) added yet further to the already long list of concerns scaring off investments from our country.

First was the report that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) believes our Gross International Reserves (GIR) to be significantly less than reported by the BSP, by more than $2 billion. The issue arises from a difference in opinion between the IMF and the BSP on what should and should not be counted as part of the GIR. But the fact that the IMF raised the question is a very serious matter that will certainly undermine our economy's credibility further. And then came the one-year suspension of BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura by the Court of Appeals arising from the Urban Bank closure. This doesn't help dispel growing perceptions of instability in the Philippine economy. All of these are man-made "disasters"—and all made in the Philippines.

The sad part about these self-inflicted wounds is that all these have put us out of step with our neighbors again. We have already mostly squandered the advantage we had over most countries in the region when the Asian financial crisis hit us in 1997. We came out of that episode without going into the deep recession suffered by our immediate neighbors. We had, at that time, the opportunity to pull ahead after having been the consistent laggard in the region for far too long. Instead, we seemed to have marked time and waited for our neighbors to catch up, and now they are poised to overtake us once more, if they haven't already.

For instance, our unemployment rate last year remained high at over 11 percent, while Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand managed to keep theirs within 3-4 percent. And even if our inflation rate has been kept to about 3 percent on an annual basis, our neighbors (except for Indonesia) have done even better, keeping their inflation rates below 2 percent. Clearly, they have been successful in restoring confidence of investors in their respective economies after the crisis, while investor confidence in the Philippine economy seems to be eroding by the day at this time.

Perhaps, the relatively good economic numbers we are still getting on some fronts (e.g. inflation, output growth, interest rates) is keeping us from feeling the sense of urgency in all of this. But we cannot afford to shrug and say that everything will have to wait until after the 2004 elections--as if there were clear prospects for a brighter picture by then. Unfortunately, our country's political future remains up in the air, and along with it our economic future--unless we all pull together now and take decisive action and avoid squandering precious time.

What can we do?

On the part of government, a unified focus on the economy and the need to protect and expand jobs is paramount. The elections are nine months away. So much can be done in nine months. To be sidetracked into political wranglings at this still early stage from the more pressing needs of the economy could only undermine the government's chances of retaining the confidence of the electorate. And the officials and workers in government ought to put the common good, rather than self-gain, as their primary goal.

The political opposition, especially those in the legislature, have an equally heavy responsibility. It is appealing for them to undermine the ruling administration at every chance, thereby enhancing their chances of gaining control in 2004. But spending their time doing so hurts us all, and diverts them from working on at least 17 key economic bills still pending in Congress. At this time when our long-term economic wellbeing as a nation is at stake, our politicians ought to look beyond their partisan agenda and selfish ambitions, and instead direct their greater energies to the common good.

The private sector can help by keeping faith in our economy, and not fall into the "wait and see" attitude that is putting our economy in suspended animation. That is why I applaud those who continue to put their stakes in the Philippine economy at this time, oblivious of the coming election season. Doubts and pessimism in our economic future are self-fulfilling, but so is confidence and optimism. This is also the time for the private sector to recognize that paying taxes honestly will ultimately redound to their own welfare, as the weakest link in our economy remains the government's finances.

The same is true of us common citizens. We all have a stake in an improved economy, and we all have a part to play through good citizenship, patronizing our own products, creating wealth through entrepreneurship, and so on. Now more than ever, Filipinos of all persuasions need to pull in the same direction, set aside political and social divisions, and work together to improve our collective welfare. Our economic success can only be made in the Philippines. It is time we all recognize that the change we all want to see in Philippine society begins with change within ourselves. *Matauhan na tayo.*

July budget gap . . .

From page B3

would meet its P202-billion deficit target this year. Disciplined spending could even bring down the full-year number to a range of P178-P185 billion.

This could be the first time in five years for the government to limit the deficit below the target. Since 1998, the government had been running on a deficit that has become a big factor in eroding investor confidence in the Philippines.

"Even with the payment of accounts in July, there's a good chance we could register a deficit lower than the target," Camacho said.

The bureaus of internal revenue and of customs, which account for more than 90 percent of total collections, exceeded their targets in July.

The BIR said as of Friday, it had collected P33.76 billion or P305 million more than the July target while Customs said two weeks ago it raised P9.48 billion against a target of P9.11 billion last month.

The budget department said it exceeded by P3 billion the spending ceiling for the month after it accelerated disbursements for account payables starting last month.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua said that in the first six months, the government spent P1.8 billion less than the target so this should partly offset the overspending in July.

The budget department's overspending in July did not come as a surprise after officials repeatedly said that spending would accelerate after June to settle obligations unpaid in the first semester.

Alaska Milk First Semester Net Income Hits P 306 MM

Alaska Milk Corporation reported a net income of P 306 MM for the first half of the year, up to P 156 million or 104% compared to the P 150 million realized in the same period last year.

First semester revenues reached P 2.162 billion, up to 12% from P 1,935 billion in the first half of 2002. Strong volume growth across all product lines aided by a selling price increase fueled revenue growth. Liquid canned milk sales volume posted a strong double-digit growth with the highly successful launch early this year of the Alaska Evaporada as well as the recent introduction of the Alaska Evaporated and Condensed Milk in Easy Pour / Tetra packs, Alaska Powdered Milk sales volume likewise posted a strong performance, resulting in increased market share. Modest volume growth contribution also came from its new High Calcium Powdered Milk variant. Alaska Fresh and Alaska Slim in 1-liter UHT packs continued to post high double digit volume growth.

However, current world prices of skimmed milk powder remains relatively high at US$ 1,650 to US$ 1,750 per MT, which will dampen income in the second half of the year.

AMC's stock price has increased by 33%, from P 2.10 / share at the start of the year to P2.80 / share recently. In addition, AMC declared a P 0.30 / share cash dividend last May, 2003 payable in four quarterly installments of P 0.075 / share, which is equivalent to a dividend yield of 11% per annum.

AMC's balance sheet remains very strong, with a cash position of P 1.7 billion.

Alaska also recently launched Alaska Crema, an all purpose cream, as part of the company's continuing effort to expand its product portfolio in higher value-added segments as well as to further strengthen the Alaska brand.

ADVT.

Central bonkers

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

WHEN the Urban Bank case against Rafael Buenaventura was assigned to the Court of Appeals fifth division, alarm bells should have started ringing for the lawyers of the Bangko Sentral governor.

Why? Because the presiding justice of that division, Eugenio Labitoria Jr., had previously reversed the Bangko Sentral in the closure of Orient Bank.

Two years earlier, Labitoria set aside the Bangko Sentral decision to liquidate Orient Bank and ordered the banking regulators to reconsider the plea of Orient Bank owner Jose Go to reopen the bank.

(The Bangko Sentral has appealed the Orient Bank decision with the Supreme Court, where the case is now pending. Mario Ongkiko, now the general counsel of the Feliciano Commission, Rey Geronimo, and Manuel Imson represent the Bangko Sentral, while the law office of former BIR chief Liwayway Chato appears for Urban Bank.)

In the Orient Bank reversal, Labitoria himself did not write the decision but merely concurred, along with fellow justice Perlita Tria Tirona, with the ponente, Eloy Bello Jr.

But in the Urban Bank case, Labitoria himself penned the decision suspending Buenaventura and other Bangko Sentral officials for one year, with justices Elvi John Asuncion and Lucas Bersamin concurring.

Unlike the Orient Bank case, the Urban Bank owners are not pressing for the reopening of their bank.

But with the Court of Appeals decision laying the basis for wrongful closure, what is there to prevent the Urban Bank shareholders from filing a multibillion-peso damage claim a la Banco Filipino against the central bank.

And with the Court of Appeals decision directly blaming Buenaventura for the alleged irregular manner by which Urban Bank had been shut down, what is there now to prevent Urban Bank president Ted Borlongan from going after Buenaventura and his estate a la Banco Filipino vs. Jobo Fernandez even up to the grave?

Luxury made affordable

EXPECT more exotic and higher-end luxury cars to be scooting in Makati and Greenhills streets by Christmas at the earliest.

The compromise version of the excise tax bill would make previously prohibitive higher-end luxury cars, in addition to the 1.6-liter and below bangers now clogging Metro Manila streets, more affordable.

Instead of the present 100-percent excise tax, the compromise measure now levies a maximum 60-percent excise tax on the vehicle's wholesale price. That means lower sticker prices for the likes of BMW 7 series and Mercedes Benz S class saloons.

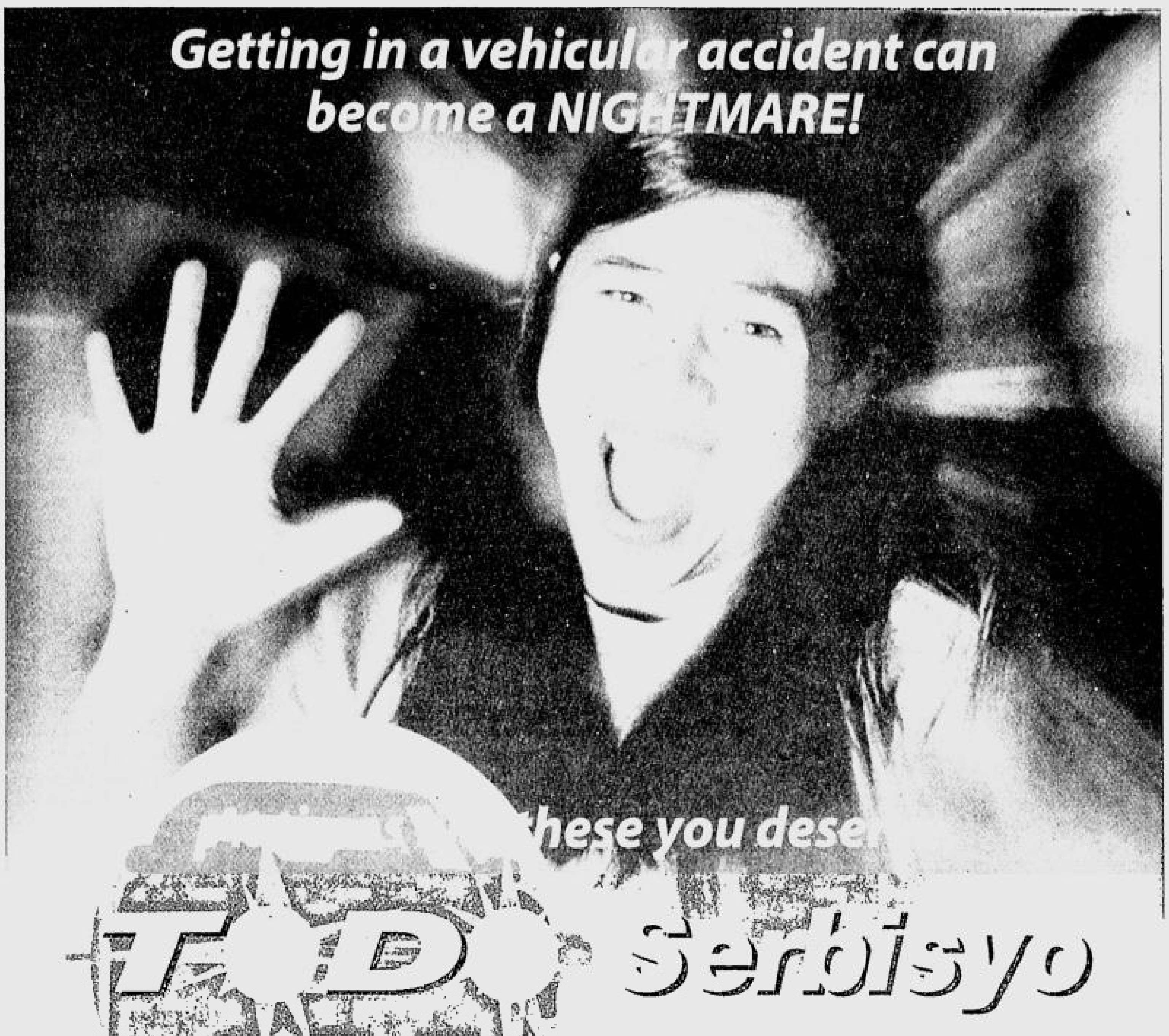
With the proposed excise tax scheme, the 4.2-liter, V8 engine Jaguar XJ8, which now costs about P9.4 million, should go down to about P7 million, said Jaguar dealer Wellington Soong. At the current tax structure, P7 million can only buy the lower-end, 3-liter, V6-engine XJ6.

Elizabeth Lee, whose family owns the Nissan SUV assembly plant, said that prices of compact sport utility vehicles like RAV-4, Nissan X-trail, and Vitara should go down as well.

However, Honda's popular CR-V, which now lost its 10-seater status, as well as Pajero, Patrol and Expedition, could expect substantial price increases.

But even before the bicameral committee could come up with the compromise version on the differing excise tax bills, Mitsubishi Motors has already

COCKTALES/ B6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RP sending new mission to woo CalPERS

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will send another mission to Sacramento, California, this week to resume talks with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) in its bid to permanently qualify as a favored investment destination for the biggest pension fund in the United States.

The delegation, which will meet with CalPERS officials on Aug. 22, will be headed by Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert Del Rosario. It will include Philippine Stock Exchange chair Alicia Rita Arroyo as well as representatives from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Makati Business Club, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice and the Supreme Court, PSE president Ernest Leung said in a briefing last Friday.

Leung said the new round of discussions, a follow-up to the mission sent last May, would give the Philippines another opportunity to clarify misleading reports which had resulted in the negative recommendation earlier made by CalPERS' consultant, Wilshire Investment Consulting Services.

Wilshire recommended in February that CalPERS remove the Philippines from its investment list, but last-minute appeals by local finance officials convinced it to give the Philippines a one-year "cure period" to wait for reforms needed to permanently qualify as a favored investment destination.

Three of the issues to be discussed with CalPERS, Leung said, involved the PSE. For instance, he said the pension fund was advised of alleged deficiencies in listing requirements based on a third party source, a foreign publication.

He said that contrary to the report, the PSE and even the SEC maintained strict reporting requirements on quarterly and semi-annual financial results of companies.

The second issue is the PSE's openness to foreign investors. Even if there were certain legal restrictions on ownership of certain businesses—such as utilities and media—these cover only shareholder control and not economic benefits, Leung said.

For instance, he noted that Philippine laws required that media firms should be 100 percent Filipino-owned while in public utilities, foreign ownership is restricted to 40 percent.

But Leung noted that there were ways by which foreigners could enjoy the economic benefits of investing in Philippine companies. For instance, media giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. have issued depositary receipts.

Depositary receipts are negotiable instruments that are bought and sold like stocks, allowing an issuer to raise capital in markets outside its home country.

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ABS-CBN plans unit in Europe

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will venture into the European market with the establishment of a new UK-based subsidiary providing cable and satellite programming services to the overseas Filipino community in Europe.

In a briefing, ABS-CBN chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado said the forthcoming expansion was part of the continued development of the network's international business.

"It's a natural growth for us to be in Europe because we can use the same programming we send to the Middle East," Estrellado said.

Although the new unit will put up its headquarters in the the United Kingdom, which offered the most cost-efficient tax system, he said the base of operations would be Milan, Italy.

"We have identified about 100,000 Filipino workers based in Milan who can afford the service," Estrellado said. "We can send to Milan and the rest of Europe."

During the first half of 2003, he reported that the company's worldwide subscribers had grown by 30 percent to 167,636 from a year ago, fueled by the 73-percent expansion in North America.

The network offers both direct-to-home/satellite and cable programming in the United States.

ABS-CBN, which started its global expansion in 1998, likewise exports content programming to the Asia-Pacific region.

ABS-CBN Global Ltd., which handles the international business, was a key driver behind the 44-percent growth in the network's net sales in the first semester. This unit pumped in P1.12 billion or 47 percent better than a year ago due to the expansion in worldwide subscribers.

Because of the strong growth of the global business, ABS CBN has been planning to list the international unit in a foreign stock exchange.

In terms of local audience share, Estrellado noted that there was a clear "duopoly" emerging between ABS-CBN and rival GMA Network Inc. ABS-CBN has a 40-percent audience share within Metro Manila while GMA was not far with a 35-percent share as of the first half of the year.

Cocktales . . .

From page B5

brought down the retail prices for its automobiles.

Mitsubishi knocked down Lancer MX A/T's sticker price to P798,000 from P860,000, and its Lancer GLX to P658,000 from P715,000.

Asked why market-leader Honda was not as fast as Mitsubishi in the price war, Honda spokesman Arnel Doria sniffed, "We're not desperate."

Heard through the grapevine

ABS-CBN knows that its longtime executive, Erap Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes, now works for rival GMA-7 as media consultant, along with former ABS-CBN PR chief Butch Raquel.

On the other hand, the longtime PR head of Ayala Corp., Danilo Gozo, is now a consultant of the Lopezes and Benpres, in addition to Gozo being a Pagcor director and an Ayala consultant.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Lackluster . . .

From page B1

After a rebounding by 15.17 points or 1.23 percent last week to close at 1,248.05 on Friday, the market did not have enough steam to support a further climb, dealers said.

Unicapital Securities head of research Eric Claudio said technical indicators did not favor any bullish movement for the market this week.

Aggravating the market's woes was the suspension ordered by the Court of Appeals against BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and four other officials over the Urban Bank closure case.

"Definitely, the suspension will have negative disruptions on policy-making," Claudio said.

He said the weakening of the peso, which slid back to the 55 level against the US dollar on Friday, was likewise a dampener on the market.

At the same time, Claudio said most of the listed companies being monitored by the market had already released their corporate earnings and the remaining ones which have yet to report were not likely to offer exciting news.

"The market is directionless at the moment," Claudio said, noting that the power outages in the United States—which had caused trading volumes in the US stock exchanges to shrink on Friday—would likewise caution domestic trading participants.

BPI Securities agreed that buying support was not yet firm as proven by the weak turnover accompanying market gains last week.

"This lack of a strong buying support suggested a possible contraction of the market. This was the scenario which ensued at the close of the trading week as positions were unwound prior to the weekend," it said.

"Market sentiment, although positive since the test of the 1200, remains tentative and vulnerable still to external shocks. Investors are still likely to keep positions short until all political and security concerns are alleviated," it added. *Doris C. Dumlao*

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of August 18, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,175,000	1,350,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	200,000
Club Filipino	Please Call	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"		180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	230,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,475,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	730,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	125,000	140,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,000,000

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Canlubang Golf 470,000
Canyon Woods Pls call
Capitol Hills 170,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C 250/310/350
East Ridge 125,000
Forest Hill A/B/C 190/220/240
Manila Golf Indiv/Corp Pls call
Manila Polo 2.2M
Manila Southwoods A/B 470/550
Makati Sports "A" 250,000
Mimosa Indiv/Corp 110/290
Mt Malarayat "A" 180,000
Orchard A/B/C 160/210/280
Quezon City Sports 150,000
Riviera A/B 120/120
Sherwood 55,000
Valle Verde CC 125,000
Tag Highlands/Midlands Pls call
Wack Wack Pls call

BUYING
Alabang 250,000
Baguio Country Club 650,000
Celebrity 170,000
Manila Golf (Indiv)/Corp Pls call
Quezon City Sports 160,000
Sta. Elena A/B Pls call
Tag Highlands/Midlands Pls call
Wack Wack Pls call

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ALABANG "A"	1.4M	PUNTA FUEGO	50K	BAGUIO CC	600K
BAGUIO CC	680K	QC SPORTS "A"	200K	CANLUBANG	450K
CAPITOL HILLS	165K	RIVIERA "A"	165K	CC @ TAG	350K
CELEB (INDIV)	175K	S'WOODS "A"	495K	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
CLUB FILIPINO	150K	S'WOODS "B"	550K	MKTI SPORTS "A"	Call now
EAGLERIDGE "A"	270K	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	MLA POLO	2.1M
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	SUBIC BAY YACHT	120K	PUNTA FUEGO	Call now
MLA POLO	2.15M	TAG MIDLANDS	750K	S'WOODS "A"	450K
ORCHARD "C"	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	300K	WACK WACK	Call now

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CANLUBANG	50,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
RIVIERA GCC	10,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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SEC License Broker No. A-17597
As of August 18, 2003

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	-	Pls. Call
Baguio Country Club	750,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	170,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	160,000
Club Filipino	160,000	130,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	250,000/450,000**	-
Eastridge	80,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/V**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind/Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,100,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	450,000/550,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	150,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	350,000*	100,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	260,000	-
Phil Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	380,000	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	320,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	130,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	Pls. Call

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	12,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	425,800
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	110
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34	322,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	189,100
Philippine National Bank	25	25.5	25	25	23,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	18.75	18.75	29,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	80,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	26,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1620	1610	1620	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.28	1.44	1.28	1.42	2,005,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1190	1190	1190	1190	600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	24.75	23.75	24	305,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	1,990,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	660	650	655	27,300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.05	42,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	880,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	530	530	520	520	33,870
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	2,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	530,400
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	2,377,400
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	2,125,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	241,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	579,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	151,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	192,600
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	91,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	203,600
Universal Robina Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.43	0.48	0.42	0.48	740,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.43	0.5	0.43	0.5	100,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.75	4.65	4.7	6,185,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	63,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	119,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.74	1.6	1.74	322,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.58	0.61	17,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	600,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.036	2,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	1,114,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	261,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	740,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,590,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.3	1,290,000
East Asia Power Res Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	9,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.22	1.32	1.22	1.32	56,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	800,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	78,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1,220,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	220,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	25	24	24.25	748,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	8,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	8,210,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	80,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1	5,538,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	260,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	7,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	2,314,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	7,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	90,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	19,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	520,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	3,130,700	43,430,015.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	214,862,170	209,993,295.00
PRO	19,709,000	72,870,860.00
Mining	32,110,000	402,900.00
OIL	13,300,000	120,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	283,111,870	326,817,970.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	448.63	DOWN 6.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,792.32	DOWN 16.22
PRO	548.52	DOWN 13.81
Mining	1,254.90	DOWN 28.83
OIL	1.44	DOWN 0.04
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	784.25	DOWN 11.49
Composite	1,248.05	DOWN 16.25

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 92; NO. OF TRADES: 1,701

CURRENCIES

August 17, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.879894	1.000000	54.899000
Japan	Yen	0.007357	0.008361	0.459000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.414166	1.607200	88.233700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112822	0.128222	7.039300
Switzerland	Franc	0.640669	0.728120	39.973100
Canada	Dollar	0.635579	0.722335	39.655500
Singapore	Dollar	0.502825	0.571461	31.372600
Australia	Dollar	0.577548	0.656383	36.034800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.334062	2.652661	145.628400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234639	0.266667	14.639800
Brunei	Dollar	0.501393	0.569833	31.283300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.021131	0.024015	1.318400
UAE	Dirham	0.239564	0.272264	14.947000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.136500	62.392700
Argentina	Peso	0.303412	0.344828	18.930700
Brazil	Real	0.292810	0.332779	18.269200
Denmark	Kroner	0.133400	0.151609	8.323200
India	Rupee	0.019207	0.021829	1.198400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231582	0.263193	14.449000
Mexico	New Peso	0.082064	0.093266	5.120200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515976	0.586407	32.193200
Norway	Kroner	0.119313	0.135599	7.444200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015289	0.017376	0.953900
South Africa	Rand	0.120040	0.136426	7.489700
Korea	Won	0.000748	0.000850	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.107545	0.122225	6.710000
Syria	Pound	0.020950	0.023810	1.307100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025668	0.029172	1.601500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000552	0.000627	0.034400

INTEREST RATES

August 15, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 15-Aug-03	MART1 14-Aug-03
1 Month	5.8875	5.9268
3 Months	5.8482	5.9179
6 Months	6.8411	6.8946
1 Year	7.9786	7.9804
2 Years	9.4929	9.3732
3 Years	10.0286	9.9
4 Years	10.3792	10.2464
5 Years	10.5679	10.4946
7 Years	11.3357	11.2661
10 Years	11.8143	11.7161
20 Years	12.1214	12
25 Years	12.4714	12.3768

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Transfer of tariff-setting duty to Congress sought

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL industries are supporting moves to transfer the tariff-setting function of the executive branch of the government to Congress in the hope that legislators will be more cognizant of their concerns.

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) said a considerable number of its members were backing the immediate passage of House Bill No. 4958, which will repeal Presidential Decree No. 1464 or the law that granted the executive branch the authority to set tariff rates. The bill was recently passed by the House committee on ways and means.

"The board has yet to deliberate on the FPI's official stand on the issue, but many of our members have already expressed their desire to see the tariff-setting function of the executive branch transferred to Congress," said FPI secretary general Joseph Francia in an interview.

Francia said Congress' move to take the responsibility of setting the tariff rates on the country's imports gained the backing of many industry groups because the Cabinet-level Tariff Related Matters Committee was perceived to be "cold" about industries' demands. The TRM committee is composed of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Tariff Commission.

FPI had criticized the government for reducing the country's tariffs to levels much lower than those in other countries in the region.

Francia said the industries' appeal to concerned government agencies not to cut the tariff rates to very low levels was not given consideration.

Now, he said, local industries were hurting due to the surge in imports.

"It would have been all right to reduce tariffs to low levels if the costs of doing business in the country—including power rates, interest rates and labor expenses—were low. But this is not the case," said Francia.

FPI said that while the Philippines' average tariff was only 6.7 percent, the other countries maintained high tariff walls such as: Laos, 45.3 percent; Indonesia, 10 percent; India, 32 percent; Pakistan 20.4 percent, and Malaysia, 9.2 percent.

Francia, however, acknowledged recent moves of the government to review the country's tariff rates and its initiative to consult stakeholders in crafting its negotiating positions in the coming 5th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization. He, however, added that these moves might be "too late" to change their minds.

He explained that industry groups believed that the legislators might be more considerate of their demands because these involved the job security of their constituents.

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Megaworld income up 30.5%

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed Megaworld Corp., a property firm controlled by businessman Andrew Tan, posted a 30.50-percent increase in net income in the first half of this year to P350.68 million from P268.77 million last year.

The company attributed the increase to higher revenue of P724.33 million in the first semester, which was 28 percent higher than the P564.12 million recorded by the compny in the same period last year.

Megaworld said revenue in the first six months of this year was driven by brisk sales of the following projects: Olympic Hiehgts Towers, One Orchard Road Towers, Grand Eastwood Pace and Westood Cyber One, developments in Eastwood City, Marina Residential Suits and Condominium Hotels, Forbeswood Heights in Fort Bonifacio and Paseo Parkview Towers in Makati City.

Empire East Land Holdings Inc., a subsidiary, posted a decline in profit to P33.4 million in the first half of this year from P45.2 million last year.

The company reported that revenue fell to P268.2 million from P304.6 million because of stiffer competition in the market.

The company's sales were from the following projects: Laguna BelAir 3, Greenhills Garden Square, California Garden Square and Xavier Hills.

ICTSI nets P222M

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. posted a consolidated net profit of P222 million in the first half of this year, a sharp decline from the P3.4 billion in profit registered last year.

The January to June profit last year was boosted by extraordinary gains from the sale of a subsidiary, ICTSI International Holdings Corp.

On a recurring basis, however, the port operator's first half profit increased 13 percent from P196 million in the same period last year.

ICTSI said that consolidated gross revenue in the first half shot up 38 percent to P3.4 billion from P2.5 billion last year on the back of higher cargo volume. *Elena R. Torrijos*

FPHC profit doubles

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp., the holding company for the power and infrastructure interests of the Lopez family, posted a profit of P1.33 billion in the second quarter of this year or more than double the P532 million profit reported in the same period last year.

As revenue from sale of electricity nearly doubled to P8.83 billion, total revenue of the company shot up to P10 billion from P5.26 billion.

Cost and expenses also grew by 87.31 percent but operating income nevertheless rose nearly 100 percent to P2.828 billion. *Elena R. Torrijos*

GOINGS-ON

Asean hip-hop pass

ASEAN Tourism Association or Aseanta recently launched Asean Hip-Hop Pass, a regional program that aims to promote intra-Asean travel that will run from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 this year.

This pass, which can only be bought in Asean-member countries, consists of two components—an Air Pass with flight coupons priced at US$99 (excluding taxes) per flight sector and a Hotel Pass honored in participating Asean hotels that offer a room rate of US$35, US$50 and US$70 per night.

The pass is valid for sale from Aug. 1 to Oct. 25 while travel must be completed by Oct. 31.

The Asean airlines participating in this promotion are Garuda Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Royal Brunei Airlines, Singapore Airlines, SilkAir, Thai Airways and Vietnam Airlines.

Only holders of the Asean Air Pass can purchase the hotel pass.

JRS-Pacific Internet tie-up

JRS Express and Pacific Internet Philippines recently forged a partnership via Pacnet's Customer Payment ID card.

Under the agreement, signed by JRS vice president and general manager David E. Geronimo and Pacific Internet vice president for sales and marketing Sonny Divina, Pacific Internet subscribers can avail themselves of a 5-percent discount on local JRS Express delivery services nationwide by presenting their Pacific Internet card.

Founded in 1960, JRS Express has more than 240 branches nationwide situated in major cities and municipalities. Pacific Internet Philippines is the most experienced consumer and corporate ISP in the country, dominating the market for both postpaid subscription-based access and prepaid cards.

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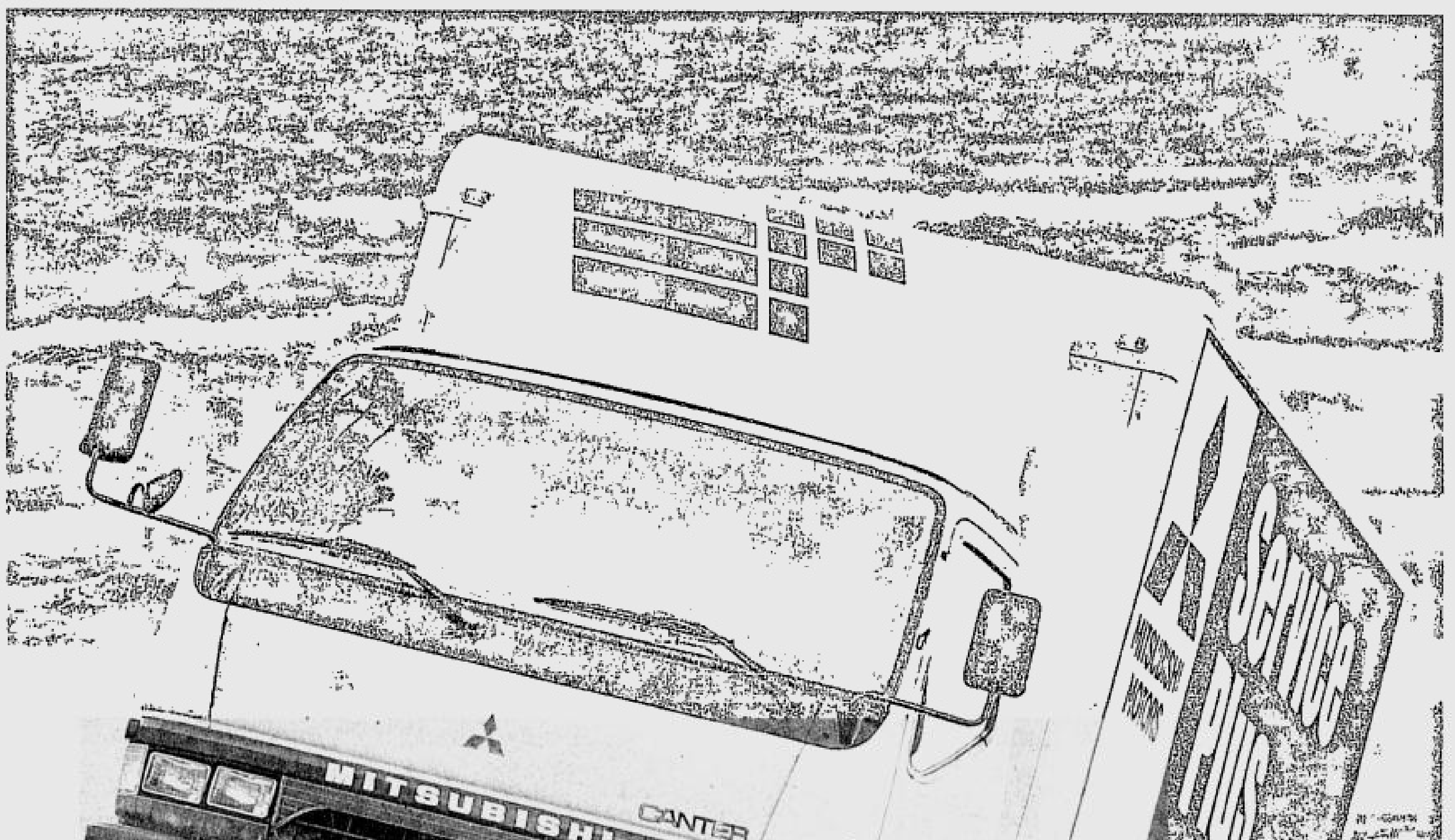

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

TOUGHER BIR POLICIES

Higher excise taxes slapped on 18 cigarette brands

By Clarissa S. Batino

EIGHTEEN local and foreign cigarette brands introduced in the market after January 1997 will be made to pay higher excise taxes starting Sept. 1, according to a new regulation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The BIR estimated that the revenue regulation raising the excise taxes on several cigarette brands would generate for the government some P2 billion in additional revenue yearly. The amount is on top of the P3 billion expected from the payment of back taxes.

A similar regulation is being drafted to address the excise tax treatment on alcoholic beverages, which was introduced after January 1997.

The BIR is currently addressing administrative weaknesses of tax policies while a bill is pending in Congress to index cigarette and liquor taxes to inflation. The law, if passed, would give the government about P13 billion in additional revenue over a two-year period.

The BIR regulation was issued to plug the tax leakage caused by the government's failure to conduct a survey on the retail prices of cigarettes three months after they were introduced in the market. The survey should be the basis of the excise taxes that would be applied on cigarettes.

The survey concluded by the BIR recently was the first since Congress passed the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program in 1997, which fixed the excise taxes on existing brands at that time.

Brands introduced after the CTRP was passed were taxed based on the manufacturers' declaration of retail prices.

Expected to be hit by this order is La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., which is required to pay P4.48 more in excise taxes per pack for its three brands of Astro and two brands of Memphis.

Currently, Astro Menthol 100s, Astro Filter KS, Astro Menthol KS, Memphis F KS and Memphis M pay an excise tax of only P1.12 per pack. Starting Sept. 1, it will have to pay P5.60 per pack.

La Suerte and other manufacturers affected by the new regulation might even be asked to settle some P3 billion in back taxes as they paid lower rates in the past.

Also affected by the new regulation are four brands of cigarettes produced by foreign firm British American Tobacco, such as Capri Slims, Lucky Strike Filter, Lucky Strike Lts, and Lucky Strike M Lts. These brands may have to start paying an excise tax of P13.44 per pack from P8.96 per pack.

Foreign brands previously not paying taxes were slapped a tax of P13.44 per pack, according to Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr.

These are Dunhill International, Dunhill Menthol, Nise, Parliament, West Formula Lts, West Full Flavor, West Ice, and West Lts. Local brand L&M FK would also have to start paying P8.96 from the current P5.60 per pack.

5TH WTO MINISTERIAL MEET

Gov't urged to reveal RP position

DAVAO CITY—IBON Foundation urged the government, specifically the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to reveal the position it would present in the forthcoming 5th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September.

Antonio Tujan, Ibon research director, said the Filipino people have the right to know what Trade Secretary Mar Roxas will present at the negotiating table in Cancun.

"That the Philippine position might be preempted in the WTO talks is no excuse for keeping the country in the dark," Tujan said in a statement.

Tujan issued the statement after Roxas claimed he could not discuss the details of the Philippine position until such time the government had presented it before the WTO summit.

Tujan said that by keeping the details confidential, the government was also leaving local businessmen and farmers unaware of the government's stand on the new negotiations for investment and trade liberalization.

"The Philippine industries are already in crisis, what with the huge tariff rate reductions that the government imposed in the past," Tujan said.

Earlier, multi-sectoral groups in Mindanao formed a coalition to oppose the new round of talks in Cancun in what they claimed as an effort to save the country's small and medium enterprises.

Councilor Peter Lavina, a member of the coalition, said that the new round of talks would lead to the complete liberalization of the service sectors, including the professional, postal, telecommunications, transportation, tourism, and environmental services to foreign players.

"This will violate the country's laws, trash the economic provisions of the Constitution and lead to the bankruptcy of thousands of small and medium enterprises," Lavina said.

The coalition, called "Stop the New Round!" has blamed the liberalization policy of the present administration for the closure of the National Steel Corp. (NSC) in Iligan City and the displacement of thousands of its workers.

NSC's closure also caused Iligan City a net loss of P200 million in taxes.

Lavina said that some 350 SMEs in food and manufacturing closed shop in Southern Mindanao alone during the past two years because of "cheap products from other Southeast Asian countries invading the local market."

Tujan said he could not reconcile why the government needs to keep the details of its position secret.

He said the government could make its position known and still make a successful presentation in Cancun.

"All it needs is enough political will against the influential members of the WTO," he said.

"In the meantime, we call on Secretary Roxas for greater transparency." *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE WISE lawmakers who wrote the Social Security Act of 1997 (RA 8282) knew that an entity that would collect billions of pesos every year from the employers and employees of the private sector was bound to be sorely tempted to spend the money in wild abandon.

So, the law puts a rein on "administrative and operating expenses." Section 25 says: "...not more than 12 percent of the total yearly contributions plus 3 percent of other revenues shall be disbursed for administrative and operational expenses such as salaries and wages, supplies and materials, depreciation and the maintenance of offices of SSS..." Let us now look into how the SSS management has handled this threshold.

In 2001, faced with a huge excess over the legal limit to administrative and operational expenses, certain expenses were simply juggled, oops, reclassified. The items "decline in value of marketable securities/probable losses" of P903,508,532 and "other investment expenses" of P138,541,550 were not included as operating expense. Instead, these items were diverted as direct deductions from investment and other income.

Strangely enough, neither the financial statement nor COA's audit report breaks down the "other investment expenses." Why the veil of secrecy?

Based on the 2001 financial statement, I have computed the limit for administrative and operational expenses at P4,081.14 million. With juggling, the amount appearing to have been actually disbursed was P4.211.6 million, which was still P130.45 million in excess of the legal limit. Without the juggling, the excess would have been a whopping P500 million.

In 2002, they did it again. The "decline in the value of marketable securities/probable losses" of P231,055,020 and "other investment expenses" of P135,783,981 were not included as administrative and operating expenses. Instead, as in the year before, the amount was diverted again as a deduction directly from investment income.

Again, the breakdown of the "other investment expenses" of P135,783.981 was shrouded in mystery.

Based on the 2002 financial statement, I have computed the limit for administrative and operating expenses at P4,341.302 million. With deft juggling again, the amount purportedly disbursed was P4,340.5 million, which was still P802,000 in excess of the legal limit. Without the juggling, the excess would have been much bigger.

And yet, all this juggling was probably unnecessary. COA's breakdown of administrative and operational expenses showed a lot of fat. Almost two-thirds of the expenses went to "personnel services," which covered salaries and wages, bonus, provident fund contributions, incentive award, Christmas expense, economic relief allowance, rice grants, clothing allowance, terminal leave pay, gratuity benefits, subsistence allowance, housing allowance, anniversary expense, and a host of other goodies. The remaining one-third went to "other expenses" which included such items as communications, travelling (local and foreign), maintenance and repairs. These items could have also been trimmed without sacrificing services to members.

But, instead of trimming expenses, the name of the game was to spend ever more. While the employee force went down from 3,942 in 2001 to 3,896 in 2002, or a drop of 56 employees, basic salaries and wages rose, repeat rose, by a whopping P115,290,886 and bonuses by P18,458,765. The average annual salary was P417,309. Adding all the fringe benefits, the SSS spent P772,322 directly on each employee.

This profligacy is downright sinful considering that (a) contributions are no longer enough to pay for members' benefits, (b) the average pension is 35 percent of minimum wage, (c) about half of the assets are of questionable value, and (d) reserves have been shrinking.

Excess expenses, whether as part of administrative and operating expenses or juggled as a direct deduction from investment income, in the end inescapably reduces the reserves, the fund that is to be delivered back to members in the future as death and disability benefits and pensions. These reserves take on the nature of trust funds. Can members continue to entrust these funds to the present SSS management?

I am told that deducting investment expenses directly from investment income is allowed under international standards of accounting. But, my lawyer tells me, these standards cannot be used to break Philippine law. RA 8282 must prevail over any international standards or agreements.

This juggling of expenses is a classic accountant's solution to a problem. Instead of solving the overspending, it is far easier to juggle the books.

Conversion of $152M in debt into BayanTel equity proposed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE HOLDERS of about $200 million worth of Bayan Telecommunications Inc. senior notes have proposed the conversion into equity of the accrued interest charges on the $625 million owed by the Lopez-owned phone company to creditors.

In their proposed rehabilitation plan for BayanTel, the bondholders, who succeeded in obtaining a court order putting the phone company under receivership, said $152 million, representing the interest component of the $625 million, should be converted into 28 percent equity in the company.

This, they said, would ensure that all creditors would be repaid fairly and that no specific creditors would be accorded preferential treatment.

"A fundamental premise of the proposed rehabilitation plan is that all financial creditors are repaid fairly and equitably, which is a common practice in most large restructuring cases throughout Southeast Asia," said an official of Avenue Asia, one of the bondholders.

The plan also proposed that the remaining $473 million in debt, after the conversion, should be restructured with a longer repayment period of 15 years, with interest-bearing notes to be given to all financial shareholders.

Under the restructured loan, creditors that have valid and enforceable security would be allowed to retain all their security rights, which they can enforce if BayanTel defaults on its obligations and eventually goes into liquidation.

The company's non-financial creditors with claims amounting to $49 million, for their part, will continue to be paid in full under the proposed rehabilitation plan.

The Pasig Regional Trial Court on Aug. 8 issued a four-page decision granting the petition of Bank of New York, which sought the rehabilitation of BayanTel on behalf of creditors holding at least 25 percent of the firm's total liabilities.

Conchita Manabat, chair of the Financial Executives Institute Research and Development Foundation, has been appointed rehabilitation receiver.

The Bank of New York serves as trustee for the holders of $200 million worth of 13.5-percent BayanTel senior notes due 2006.

The trustee acted on the instructions of the informal steering committee composed of Avenue Asia Investments LP, Avenue Asia International Ltd., Avenue Asia Special Situations Fund II LP, Avenue Asia Capital Partners LP, and Van Eck Global Opportunity Masterfund Ltd.

The decision penned by Judge Jose Hernandez of Pasig RTC Branch 158 effectively protects BayanTel from possible liquidation.

BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said in a telephone interview Friday that it was unfortunate that the bondholders had decided to go to court even after meetings in New York that seemed to have been "productive" for both them and BayanTel.

"We've been in discussions with the bondholders in New York about crafting a rehabilitation plan acceptable to them. When I left those meetings, I believed there were no other major open items between us. That's why it's unfortunate that they filed a petition in court," he told the INQUIRER.

He said BayanTel's lawyers and advisers were already studying the court order and that a suitable response would be issued to the court before a hearing is held.

Ionics shuts down PCB making unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

SEMICONDUCTOR firm Ionics Inc. has shut down its bleeding printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing subsidiary, Synertronix Inc.

This resulted in the writing off of some P800 million in investments that Ionics had infused into the wholly-owned unit.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ionics said its board of directors agreed to shut down the subsidiary effective last Friday "to prevent further losses," citing the continuing depressed conditions in the PCB industry.

This will result in a non-cash write-off of P800 million subject to the disposition of the remaining assets of the subsidiary.

"The closure of Synertronix will enable Ionics to move forward and concentrate on its core business under Ionics EMS," the company said.

In line with the closure of Synertronix , the Ionics group has pre-terminated a management consultancy deal with Taiwan's PCB Techvest Co. Ltd., which was commissioned to provide advice on quality control, operations, purchasing, sales and marketing.

Ionics EMS Inc., which is listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, is a leading provider of electronics manufacturing services in the Philippines.

Earlier, creditors of another Ionics subsidiary Ionics Circuits USA filed an involuntary bankruptcy petition before the US Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of California.

Tyco Electronics Corp, Photocircuits and MCX filed the case after the company disclosed plans to close down Ionics Circuits. Ionics said it had filed a separate petition asking the court to declare it was not liable for the debts and obligations of Ionics Circuits being claimed by Tyco.

Meralco expects $200M in savings from IPP deals

By Elena R. Torrijos

MANILA Electric Co., the country's largest electricity distributor, could realize around $200 million in savings from possible concessions that its independent power producer, First Gas Power Corp., was seeking from the Malampaya natural gas consortium.

"Any savings they (First Gas) can derive from Shell will be passed on to Meralco," Fortunato Leynes, Meralco assistant vice president and head of energy management department, told reporters late last week.

Leynes said First Gas had estimated that around $200 million or roughly P1 per kWh could be the savings derived prospective gas supply contract with the Malampaya group.

First Gas owns the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita and 500-megawatt San Lorenzo gas-fired plants that buy natural gas from the Malampaya group, which consists of Shell Philippines Exploration, Texaco Philippines and PNOC Exploration Corp.

First Gas claimed that the Malampaya group had breached the terms of a "most favored nation clause" contained in their contract by failing to offer certain beneficial pricing terms and conditions that had been given to state-owned National Power Corp.

In the meantime, Meralco itself is pressing for more concessions from First Gas, which is likewise controlled by the Lopez family.

"We're not satisfied yet with the concessions (offered) by First Gas. I think they should accommodate some more of the proposals (we've made)," Margarito Teves, chair of the Meralco independent review committee and president and chief executive of Land Bank of the Philippines, said in a briefing with reporters Thursday evening.

The Meralco independent review committee was formed earlier this year to determine if the contracts between Meralco and private IPPs were arms-length and to renegotiate these contracts to benefit consumers.

Teves earlier this week announced that the concessions proposed by First Gas and Quezon Power Corp., another Meralco IPP, could result in immediate savings of over P10 billion to consumers or approximately 15 centavos per kilowatt hour.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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Net Premiums	Php	623,671,009
Premiums Retained	Php	601,258,214
Net Underwriting Income	Php	236,770,634
Net Income After Provision for Tax	Php	75,652,409
Total Assets	Php	1,964,901,001
Total Liabilities	Php	1,002,358,402
Total Stockholders' Equity	Php	962,542,599
Paid Up Capital Stock	Php	500,000,000
Contributed Surplus	Php	3,903,740
Fluctuation for Stocks & Bonds	Php	(41,564,173)
Retained Earnings	Php	500,203,031

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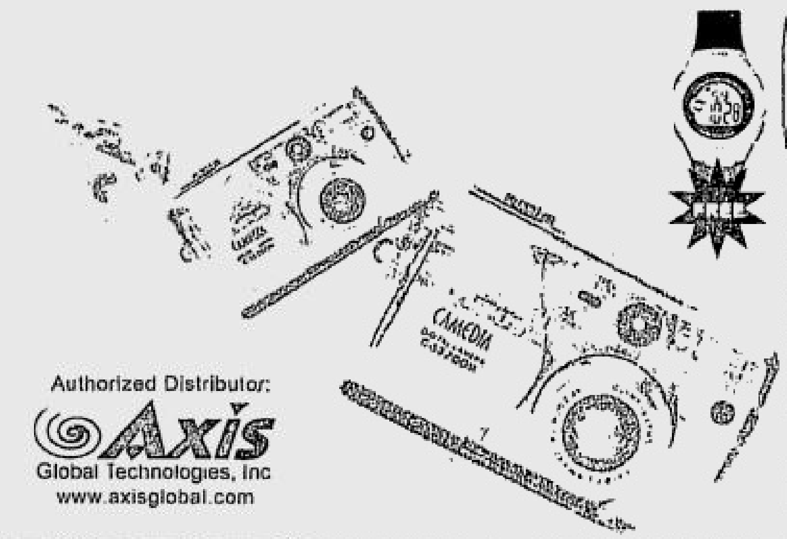

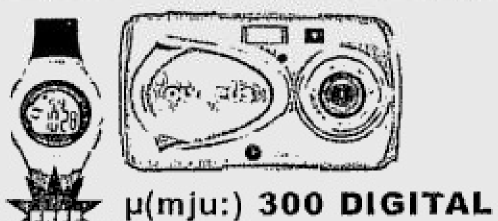

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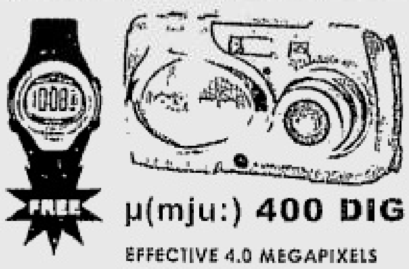

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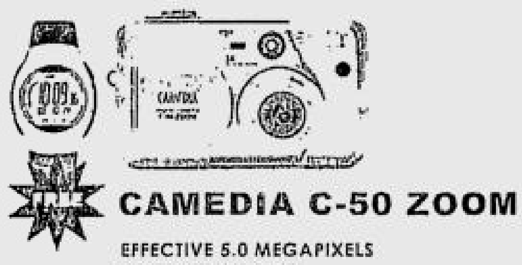

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US July inflation modest, industry output strong

WASHINGTON—US consumer prices rose moderately last month and industrial output posted its biggest gain since January, according to data on Friday that showed deflation risks ebbing as the recovery gains speed.

The Labor Department said its Consumer Price Index, the best-known inflation gauge, rose 0.2 percent in July. The closely watched core price measure, which strips out food and energy costs to give a clearer view of underlying trends, also climbed 0.2 percent.

Separately, the Federal Reserve said industrial production jumped an unexpectedly large 0.5 percent, boosted by a big gain in utilities output and a third straight monthly rise in manufacturing activity.

The advance in the core CPI was a bit steeper than the 0.1 percent rise expected on Wall Street, and economists said it should help ease fears of deflation—a potentially harmful sustained drop in prices—without fueling inflation worries.

Stock prices showed little reaction to the data while bond prices fell on the view the pick-up in production suggested the economy was gaining speed rapidly.

Trading in both debt and equity markets was thin, with many Wall Street players absent because of the massive power outage that hit the US east coast Thursday. Power and telephone systems in many areas were not yet back online.

In the CPI report, Labor said the price index for shelter, which includes hotels and the cost of owning a home, rose 0.3 percent last month after barely budging in June. The department said the gain accounted for about 85 percent of the pickup in the core CPI, which had been unchanged a month earlier.

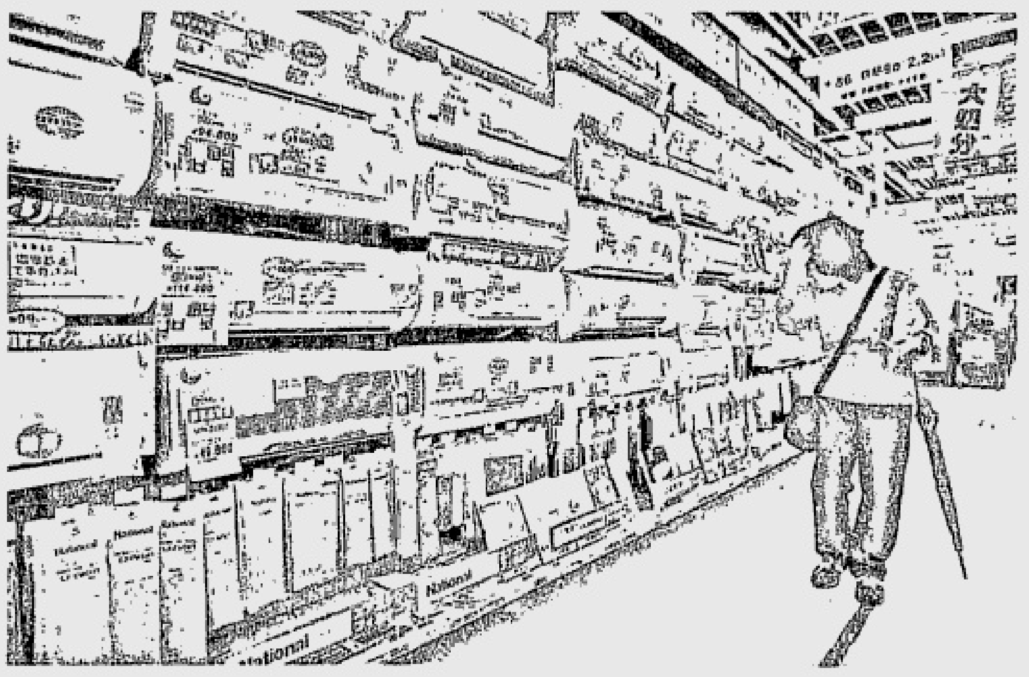
Education and communication costs, down for four straight months, climbed 0.5 percent as tuition surged 0.7 percent.

Medical care inflation, which had surprised economists by slowing early this year, resumed its prior quick ascent with a 0.5 percent gain. Tobacco prices, which had fallen in May and June, rose a sharp 1.2 percent on the back of tax increases.

Transportation costs gained 0.2 percent, reflecting a 1.6 percent rise in airline fares and a 1.5 percent step up in fuel prices, while prices for clothing and recreation were flat.

On Thursday, Labor said the producer price index, its gauge of prices at the wholesale level, last month crept up 0.1 percent overall and 0.2 percent excluding food and energy.

"These price reports should help dispel concerns about deflation, the consequences of which were overblown in any case," said Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington. *Reuters*



A CUSTOMER checks discounted prices of air conditioners, slumped in sales with the recent cool summer, at a Tokyo electric shop. In sharp contrast to historic summer heat waves in Europe, cold weather is chilling Japan and its economy, threatening to slice one trillion yen ($8.4B) off GDP, a private research institute said. AFP

Bonds to call US stocks' tune

NEW YORK—US stock investors will likely take their cues from the bond market's moves this week as Wall Street emerges from North America's biggest blackout ever and drifts into the lazy, hazy days of summer.

Rapidly rising interest rates, fueled by expectations of an economic rebound, have fanned fears that higher borrowing costs could hinder the still fragile economic recovery.

That means good economic news could potentially be bad news for stocks next week as investors brace for a fresh batch of reports on the housing sector, consumer sentiment and the labor market.

Hopes that the economy is finally recovering from its slump helped catapult the stock market higher this spring, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index up more than 20 percent from its 2003 closing low hit on March 11.

But stocks stalled out in mid-June, partly due to the sharp rise in interest rates, and market analysts see little on the horizon to help shake the market out of its summer doldrums.

With many investors taking days off for summer vacations, trading volumes have dried up, leaving stocks to wander aimlessly in the tight range they have been stuck in for about two months.

"Let's not forget this is the summer," Johnson said. "The kind of trendless and volatile tone we've seen for the last few days, almost directionless, is likely to prevail."

Stocks managed to eke out slight gains last week, with the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average both up about 1. percent, and the Nasdaq Composite Index up about 3.5 percent. *Reuters*

China to hire foreign talent to run firms

BEIJING—China will launch a global search for talent in its latest attempt to spruce up its laggard state-owned enterprises, official media said Saturday.

A group of six unidentified state-owned companies have been selected for the experiment, and the worldwide head-hunt will start in the second half of the year, the Xinhua news agency said.

The practice will gradually spread to other state-owned enterprises, said Li Yizhong, deputy director of the State Asset Supervision and Administration Commission.

"This is the orientation of our leadership restructuring at state-owned enterprises," he said.

"We believe state-owned enterprises must absorb the most outstanding talents from around the world to become strong players in the international market."

Whoever accepts the jobs may face some major challenges, as many of China's state-owned firms turn out goods worth less than the raw materials that go into the production.

Many state companies are also saddled with expensive welfare obligations, including care of pensioners or laid-off workers. *AFP*

Singapore must adapt or risk stagnation

SINGAPORE—Singapore's founding father said unemployment is the city-state's biggest problem and that the society must adapt or risk stagnating like Hong Kong or Taiwan.

"Our main worry now is unemployment ... It is simply that world conditions have changed and have made our products and services no longer competitive versus low-cost countries," Lee Kuan Yew said in a speech late Friday.

Lee said Singapore, where unemployment is at a record 4.9 percent, could become like Hong Kong and Taiwan, which both refused to adapt to change and now have unemployment rates above 5 percent.

"To keep Hong Kong wages up, it delayed its integration with China's economy, continuing to restrict the entry of professionals and skilled workers from the mainland," said Lee.

He stepped down as prime minister in 1990 but remained an influential force under the title of senior minister.

"Taiwan has been reluctant to accept new economic realities ... It restricted Taiwanese investment in China," he added.

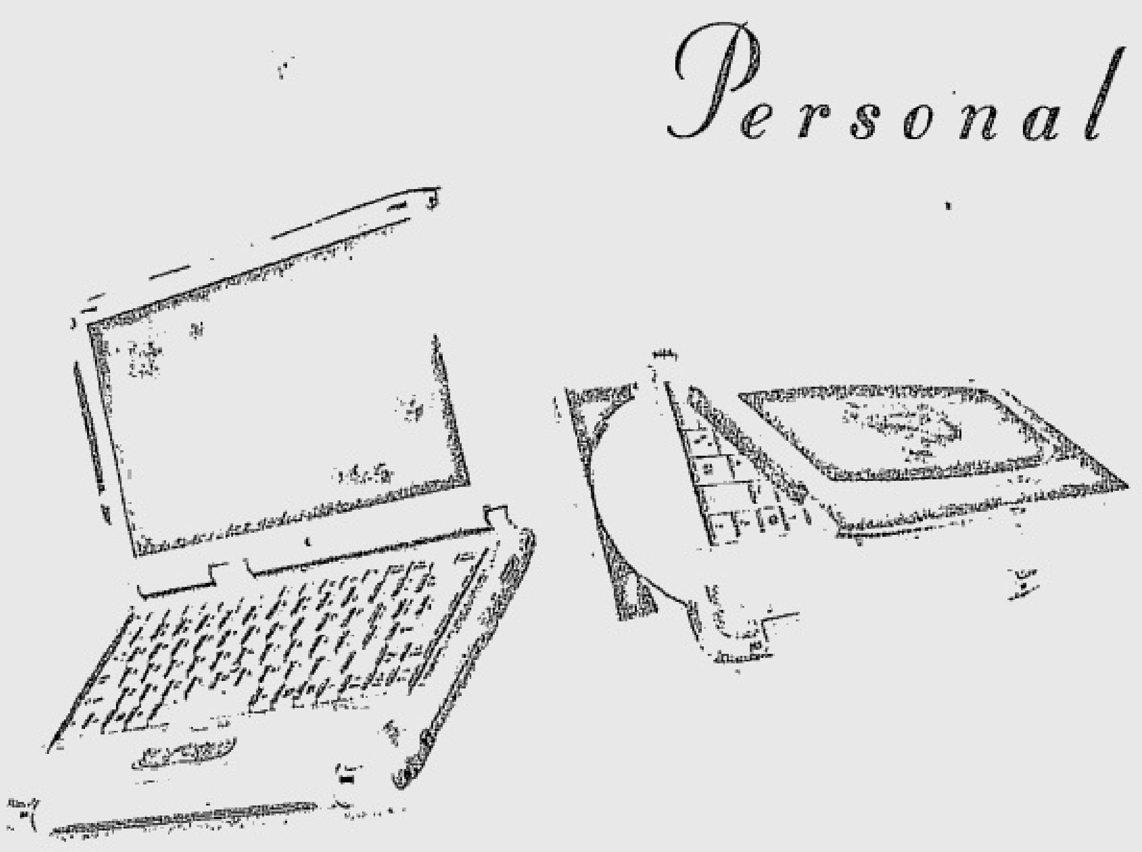
Lee, who turns 80 next month, formed the city-state's first government in 1965 after Singapore split from Malaysia.

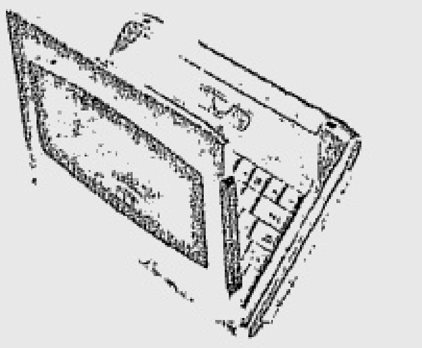
He turned the small, malaria-infested island into a gleaming business center that now hosts the regional offices of over 1,000 international companies.

For years, the government relied on manufacturing to boost the economy but has now turned to the arts, biomedical sciences and the media in a bid to spur growth.

"If we stay on our old course, our unemployment will go up from 4.9 percent to 8.5 percent as in Hong Kong with 300,000 unemployed," Lee said.

The city-state of 4 million is currently mired in its worst economic slump—battered by the war in Iraq, regional terror threats and the SARS outbreak. *AP*





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Novel WTO policies on investment put off

GENEVA—African countries on Friday called for planned negotiations on new WTO rules on investment and competition policy to be put on hold, arguing they were premature and would prove too burdensome for poorer members.

With many developing countries already struggling to implement existing trade rules, Kenya backed by other African and developing states appealed for more time and work to be done before taking on board new accords.

"We are not ready yet," Kenyan Ambassador Amina Chawahir Mohamed said.

Ministers agreed in Doha in 2001 that negotiations on the four so-called Singapore issues would begin after the next ministerial conference—now just a month away and to be held in Cancun, Mexico.

Those negotiations would be held on the basis of a decision "by explicit consensus" taken by trade ministers at the Sept. 10-14 Cancun conference on the targets and guidelines for the talks.

The four areas cover the setting of ground rules for competition and for the investment by multinational companies abroad, as well as ensuring transparency in government bidding processes and facilitating trade.

Known as the "Singapore Issues" after first being taken up at the WTO Singapore ministerial meeting in 1996, their main proponents include the 15-nation European Union and Japan.

EU Ambassador Carlo Trojan said ambassadors in Geneva had a mandate to attempt to pave the way for ministers at Cancun to decide on whether to launch the new talks at the WTO.

"I think we have a mandate from ministers, that is to prepare substantive modalities and this is the job we have to do," he told reporters after three hours of talks. *AFP*

Vivendi entertainment bids seen falling short of $14B

LONDON—Vivendi Universal's dream of landing a $14-billion cash-rich deal for its US entertainment empire is fast evaporating with final bids likely to fall short of the mark, sources involved in the auction said on Friday.

As the deadline for bids looms on Monday, the media giant is facing a dwindling field of contenders for its Universal film, television and theme park business, with most valuing the assets at least $1 billion below Vivendi's price tag, the sources said.

Vivendi chief Jean-Rene Fourtou, who took over from Jean-Marie Messier last year as the group teetered on the edge of collapse, is sticking by his $14-billion demand, despite the exit of another contender, Comcast Corp.

"I don't think anyone is going to get to that number ($14 billion)," said one source involved in the auction.

The French chief executive is now facing three options: accept a bid below its price tag; pursue a joint venture with no up-front cash with General Electric's NBC or Comcast; or go it alone down the flotation route, sources said.

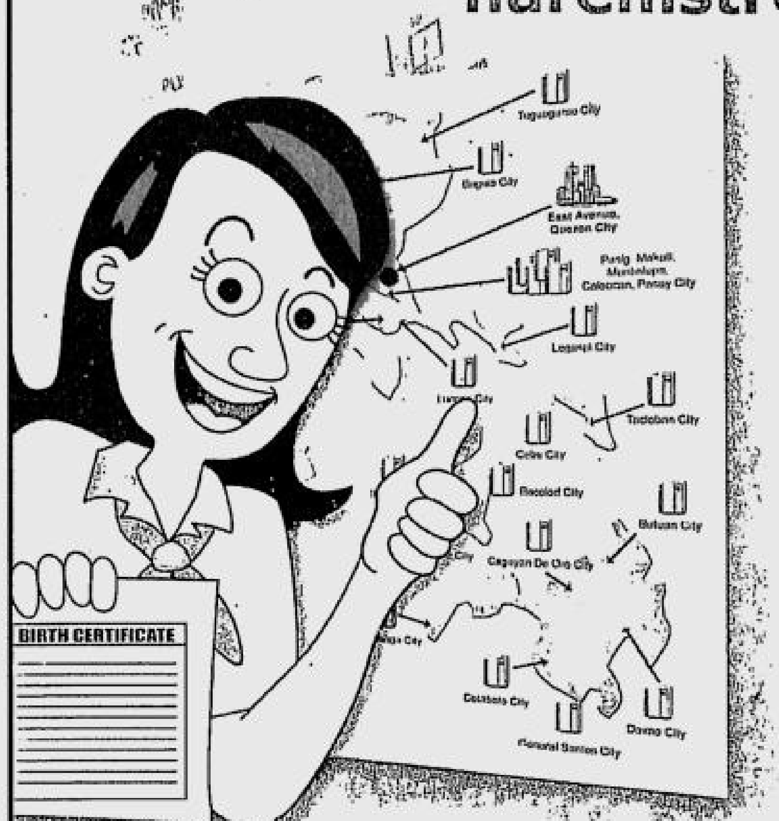
For now, NBC is considered the leading contender.

US TV network NBC is proposing to combine its channels, including MSNBC and Bravo, with Vivendi's business in a venture controlled by NBC. That option would give Vivendi a minority stake and may be its best hope of getting near its price target.

Among other remaining contenders, a team led by Vivendi vice chair Edgar Bronfman Jr. has been holding high-level talks this week and is expected to present a second-round bid, a source familiar with Bronfman's activities said.

Viacom, which owns Paramount Pictures, has also been continuing talks but is still only interested in the cable TV business and has already expressed qualms about Vivendi's price demands, one source familiar with the auction said.

Paris-based Vivendi has called for final bids on Monday but bidders suspect that deadline might prove flexible, especially for those not negotiating an outright bid for all the assets. *Reuters*



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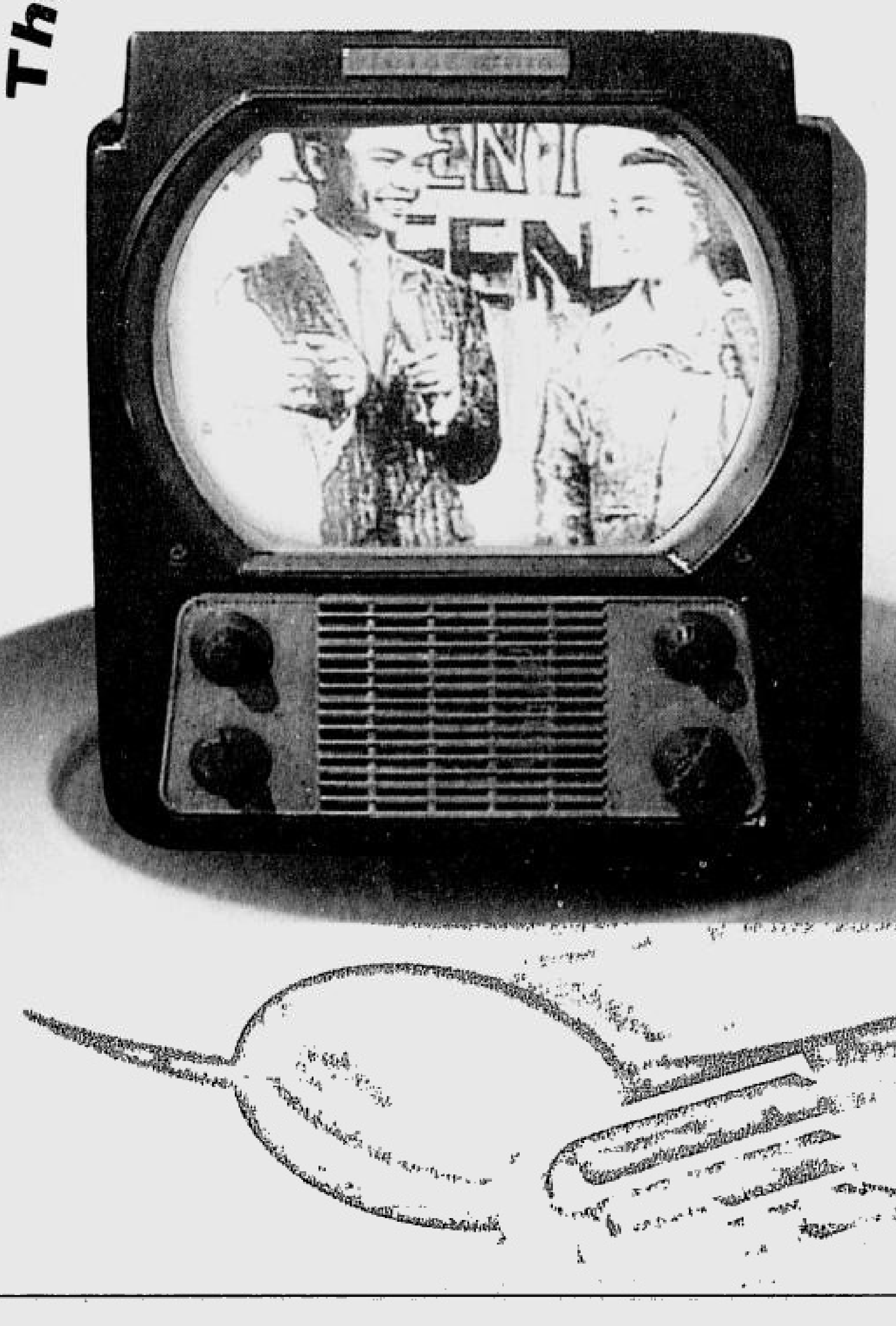

The noontime phenomenon started from an employees' canteen.

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"It's 12 high noon. Welcome to your *Student Canteen*!" Generations of TV viewers fondly remember this all too familiar spiel. *Student Canteen*'s innovative blend of contests, games, musical performances and superb hosting provided the template for noontime entertainment. Who can forget the formidable trio of Eddie Ilarde, Leila Benitez and Pepe Pimentel?

It began as *CBN Canteen*, a radio show in 1956 where Priscilla Aristorenas regularly serenaded employees of Chronicle Broadcasting Network (CBN) during their lunch break at the Manila Chronicle Building canteen in Aduana, Manila.

CBN Executives saw an opportunity in capturing the youth market when the program became a hit among student listeners. They re-named it *Student Canteen*, this time, with Eddie Ilarde and Leila Benitez on board as hosts. Eddie Mesa, Elizabeth Ramsey, Carina Afable, Helen Vela, Rafael M. Alunan III and Edward Hagedorn were some of the young hopefuls who tried their luck to be singing champions in the program's most popular segment.

In July 1958, DZXL Channel 9, CBN's TV station went on the air for the first time. *Student Canteen*'s success on radio was quickly brought to television during the same year by simply adding two cameras to the mix.

Since then, the noontime slot has evolved into a fiercely contested arena among TV networks. Although *Student Canteen* was not spared from the battle, its original recipe has clearly outlived its television run. What it started was hot then and is still flaming hot today.

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Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

EXP COOK DRIVER 5368216

EXP. MAIDS w/NBI-9950291

GCM AGENCY
Good Caring Maids
5359317, 0917-6297203

Goma w/NBI MAID4155945

Good Maid Intl Cook 43794 36

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

IDEAL MAID YAYA 7427198

MAID YAYA TUTOR MIDWIFE DRIVER COOK 4225099/4776

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NURSE/MIDWIFE 74.29329

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MAIDS
Call Josie 8737057•8737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya
CALL:9124701 • 9124706

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS
W/ NBI & BI 421-3828

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 920 6784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8 383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

L-BAHAY 785-2911

P400 Lipat Agad 681-7623

P100 0/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

BF Resort bung 2.8M 9282497

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESDL

VARIED AREAS

MANILA
San Nicolas Del Pan 1,432 sqm.;
Paco Romualdez 1,465 sqm Near Adamson;

MAKATI
Ayala Ave. Urdaneta Apts 1 unit res. 2BDR/2TB;
Legaspi Vill. FCC Bldg. 1/F Rada 3 units 48; 35; 46 sqm.;
Galeria de Magallanes Lapu-lapu 1 unit 3BDR/3TB Parking 2 slots;

QUEZON CITY
EDSA West Triangle 10,951 sqm.;
Del Monte Surigao 600 sqm.
West Ave.nr. St. Claire School

PASAY
Park Ave. 1,490 sqm.,

PARAÑAQUE
Delos Santos Ave. (Sucat) 12,028 sqm.Nr. SM
17,224 sqm. nr. BF Com'l

MUNTINLUPA
Ayala Alabang 746 & 1,137 sqm. W/concrete 2-storey residence spool

ANTIPOLO
Lot 360sqm.Marcos Hi-way Nr. Sumulong

LUZON
- TAGAYTAY 2 lots Adj. 19,881/17,608 sqm. Nat'l Hi-way Nr. Rotonda
- ISABELA NAGUILAN 2 Has Provincial Rd Front 99 M
- BATANGAS Tanuan 3 Has.; Lian Malabungkay Lot 3604 sqm. Beach Resort
- BAGUIO Brent Rd. lot 562 sqm. w/ res.
- CAVITE Gen. Trias Provincial Rd. 4 Has Front 65M Nr. Gateway
- LAGUNA Cabuyao Nat'l. Hi-way 8 Has. w/ fasting-whse bldg. GFA 31,000 sqm.

VISAYAS
- CEBU CITY Cuenco Ave. 10,611 sqm. nr. Maxilom; Ramos 17,442 sqm. nr. Velez; N. Bacalso (South Expressway) 10,101 sqm
- MANDAUE CITY Nat'l. Hi-way 7,186 sqm nr. SMC
- MACTAN Lapu-lapu 50,000 sqm. Seafront 130M
- DUMAGUETE Rizal Ave. cor. 913 sqm.

MINDANAO
- BUKIDNON Malaybalay Sayre Hi-way 2 Lots 2,142/5,293 sqm.
- DAVAO CITY Dumoy Nat'l. Hi-way Lot 46,614 sqm Front 200 M Nr. Bastida Elementary School

ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Makati 818-2781/751-5472
Cell: 0919-6745430
E-mail: jmortiz@info.com.ph
Cebu (032) 232-3361
E-mail: jmocebu@info.com.ph

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS/BACOOR
2-4 BRS, 1-3 T&B, 2Storey
P5,000 to Reserve/No loan req'l
874-0486 874-0487

MANILA

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Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge
P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

P1.3 -2.6M neg CASH / TERM 2-5BR Tel. 9900160 /4752048

PARANAQUE

Greenheight 0917-6979302

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700sqm RES / COMM'L KAPITOLYO 23/sqm NEG. T634-1212

QUEZON CITY

P381,000/unit
5-Sty Condo nr. SM Fairview thru Pag-ibig/GSIS/In-house 8179050 • 9750 / 0919-8994322

SIKATUNA Bung 4.6M 9282497

ST. IGNATIUS VIL,cor. 400m² 6BR 14M 0919-2221766

RIZAL

NR ANTIPOLO PROPER 346sqm 3BR 1.8M 634-1212

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3000m² LOT HOTSPRING POOL 4BLDGS. Complete Amenities BASKETBALL / BOWLING 19M 0920-9218633 ; 3758018

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TEL# 913-5223/921-4883
922-4464/913-7632

LAS PINAS

2BR 1M 40.9sqm Pulalupa LP 09166251791•8935224

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

Mkti Condo Studio 2-3BR 818-8569 • 758-9435 Noel

RIZAL TOWER ROCKWELL
DESIGNER CONDO UNIT
297SQM. MAIDS ROOM
2 PARKING BAYS HI FLOOR
FANTASTIC MAKATI VIEWS
GOOD SECURITY
•0917-5303865 OR 8992364•

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

nr UST,Espana Tower
09163741571•09178102903

MANDALUYONG

Pioneer East 1br 2.5M 4121825

Various Manda Condo/Thses Cheap • 534-6610 Jojo

QUEZON CITY

Capitol Hills Condo 2br2tb w/car grge 928-2497 Rush

Cubao Condo No D/P Pagibig 6873372 / 09178102903

Cubao P1.4M 10%DP 9132224

Rush! Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0917-8143792

SCT CASTRO NR MORATO 3br3tb1cg 2.8M neg 6873372

LOT

LAS PINAS

CITADELA 240m² 9282497

MAKATI

Husong Batule St between Pasong Tamo Gomez Sts 125sqm frontage 11.56M Tel# 651-8520 or 21

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

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VALLE VERDE 4 T634-1212

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5 Hect Lot Sto. Tomas Batangas, Ask P250/sqm Tel. 8105223 / 09272617308

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1.2 HECTARES PROPERTY W/120 METER RIVER FRONTAGE 15-20MIN. FR. NORTH DIVERSION RD (BOCAUE OR MARILAO EXIT) 190/SQM. T(044) 7114212/13 OR (044) 7115423

OFFICE SPACE

Francisco Gold I sale/rent 1.5M or12T all-in 4121825

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

Farm Lot w/ Poultry Bldgs 1.19 Htr CALAUAN LAGUNA 744-4167 / 724-3264

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Up&Down 180m² 3BR/2T&B 2car grge 11 Makaturing St. Coronado Subd. Mand. City • 532-5718 or 531-7229 •

QUEZON CITY

D. TUAZON 35T 5BR, 2T&B 4PK nr QUEZON AVE 600M² 457-8041

T.Sora DFV QC 2BR1TB P8T 7312110 / 7312189

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

ECOLOGY SAN LORENZO SITE 170 SQ.M. 3T&B 3BR PIA (0917)5317034 631-0274

MAKATI AVE 8T F/F 457-0041

RIZAL TOWER ROCKWELL
3BR FULLY FURNISHED
DESIGNER CONDO UNIT
297SQM. MAIDS ROOM
2 PARKING BAYS HI FLOOR
FANTASTIC MAKATI VIEWS
GOOD SECURITY
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PASIG

NR ORTIGAS CENTER CONDO TOWNHSE T634-1212

Parc Royale 3BR Fully Furn 50T 4121825 ; 09177914366

QUEZON CITY

Furn 2BR P12T Columbia St. See to appreciate 6461603

Kanlaon St. nr Lourdes Church 3BR3TB P18.5T 7312110 7312189

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

SCT AREA 46T 4BR 6T&B 2PK nr ABS-CBN 450M² 457-8041

RIZAL

Ferros Tower 25T Furnished w/Jacuzi & MdRm 543-4469

APARTMENT

PASIG

2sty Apt Greenland 627-6307

QUEZON CITY

116 Chico St. Proj. 2 QC

1br Kalpnan 7275728;6815834

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

•P4.8T STUDIO T-926-7433

FOR LEASE

Whse Mkl/QC500sqm7233697

ROOM & BOARD

Btino PJ3 w/ TB 9420612

Lady P3500 Tel/CR 3708471

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.5 CARLOAN 788035

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677623/24

BUSINESS LOANS 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

110m², 2mos. dep.,2mos.adv 1 year contract, renewable P27,500/mo. (inclusive VAT) Mike Manzano:8180106/8180203

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Ortigas Ctr 63.13m² @ 23T 97.40sqm @ 33T 4121825 ; 09177914366

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COMM'L/ WHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

T-HSE 3BR 3TB W/GRG, TEL 722-0261 •09175393485 ANA

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

95 ESI A/T P280 T7220261

95 HONDA ESI T5237927

MAZDA

•POWER VAN 228T 9267383

MITSUBISHI

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98 Mit L200 350T Inquire at Tel 532-2437 0917-5313150

NISSAN

•VANET DSL 188T 926-7383

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CARS FOR RENT

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A'TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8806595

CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990
E-MAIL: pparo7@cvis.net.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port District of Visayas invites interested bidders to submit Application to apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

I.
A.1 Name of Project REHABILITATION OF FLORES AVENUE DUMAGUETE CITY
B.1 Scope of Work

Base Preparation (Volume = 8,576.0 c Major
Supply, Spread & Compact 200 mm thi Major
Portland Cement Stab [illegible] 1M
Volume [illegible] .00.0 [illegible]
Supply & Installation of [illegible]
non-woven) water separ [illegible]
1 F [illegible] Major
1 [illegible] Major
Major

C.1 Minimum Equipment Requirements

1.0	1 unit	Asphalt Paver (142 hp)	Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	Asphalt Kettle (5T)	Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	Back Hoe (79 hp)	Owned
4.0	2 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Bulldozer (300 hp)	Owned
6.0	1 unit	Concrete Cutter	Owned
7.0	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	Owned
8.0	1 unit	Dump Truck (10T)	Owned
9.0	1 unit	Jackhammer w/ Compressor (250 cfm)	Owned
0.0		Two Bagge[illegible]oncrete Mixer	Owned
11.0	1 unit	Pay Loader (1.0 cu.m., 65 hp)	Owned
12.0	1 unit	Pneumatic Roller (80 hp)	Owned/Leased
13.0	1 unit	Road Grader (110 hp)	Owned
14.0	1 unit	Road Roller (Vibratory 10T)	Owned/Leased
15.0	unit	[illegible]ndem Roller (92 hp)	Owned/Leased
6.0		Tr[illegible] Mixer (5.0 cu.m.)	Owned
		[illegible]nk (5,000 Liters)	Owned

D.1 Budget for the Contract P 18,419,996.00
Source of Funding PPA [illegible] Fund
Contract Duration 300 [illegible]

E.1 Required PCAB Registration & Classification [illegible]ay Pavement

Bid Documents shall be issued onl[illegible] [illegible] cost of the documents of Ph. 3,000.00

II.
A.2 Name of Project EXISTING PIER PORT OF LIPATA,

B.2 Scope of Work

Casting & Driving RC Pile (Length = 2,310.00 ln.m.)
Supply/Install Steel Reinforcement for Superstructure (Volume = 45,725 kgs.) Major
Concrete for [illegible]ormworks (Volume = 319.0 cu.m.) Major
[illegible]stall Bollard including acc Minor
Install Fendering System Minor
[illegible]uding [illegible]sories

C.2 Minimum Equipment Requirements :

1.0	1 unit	Bar Bender	Owned
2.0	2 units	Bar Cutter	Owned
3.0	2 units	Two Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
4.0	2 units	Concrete vibrator	Owned
5.0	1 unit	Diesel Hammer (3.5T)	Owned/L
		Drop Hammer (2T)	Owned/Leased
		Oxygen-Acetylene Cutting Outfit	Owned
8.[illegible]		Truckmounted Crane (35T min)	Owned/Leased
9.[illegible]		Welding Machine (400 amp)	Owned
10.0		Boom Truck	Owned

D.2 Budget for the Contract P 15,307,247.00
Source of Funding PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration 270 Calendar Days

E.2 Required PCAB Registration & Classification Medium "B" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph. 3,000.00

F. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract to be bid and 50% of the major items of work.

G. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form P 200.00
Place of Issuance
Philippine Ports Authority
Port District – Visayas
BAC Secretariat
CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area
Cebu City

H. Last day of Issuance of Pre-C Forms September 05, 2003

I. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/Eligibility Forms September 12, 2003

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) on Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Provisions of E.O. 40.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat	Tel. No. (032) 232-3401
PPA Website	www.ppa.com.ph www.cvis.net.ph/ppa

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippines Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) MANUEL T. GORME
Port District Manager

(PDI – August 18 & 27, 2003)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MB STAREX URVAN 8276606

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

Vans4Rent 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8090215

CAR LOAN

1% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% CARLOAN 3736519

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677623/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262788

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7220942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

Fely Pd Educ Plan 7137284

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
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Almost New:TERMS-7213124

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[illegible]

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TRUSTED IDEAL MAID 8446168

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JOB HIRING 09228022987 VENUS

Mktg Staff 2568505 GLENDA

OFCMKTG. STF 09193352395 KC

•SALESMAN College Level w/ Driver's license
•HELPER H.S. Graduate
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SIXTO LLADOC & GENOVEVA HERNANDEZ was adjudicated to Jaime Esquilon, Epifanio, Quirino & Resurreccion as per Doc. 393 Page 80 Book IV Series of 2003 before Notary Public Cesar T. Ching of Marikina City.
PDI-Aug.14,18 & 25,2003

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Jose S. Laurel, III who died at Alabang, Muntinlupa City last January 6, 2003 has been extra-judicially settled by and among his heirs, in a document dated August 5, 2003, acknowledged before Notary Public Jose A. Olveros of Pasig City, Doc. No. 1, Page 2, Book I, Series of 2003 of his Notarial Register.
(PDI- Aug. 11, 18, & 25 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that Medical Doctor's Inc. stock certificate no. 1626 under the name of **ELVIRA S. EDUQUE** were reported lost.
(PDI-August 11 & 18, 2003)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Consign 3738821

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen
Pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted.
"With gratitude:" PCA

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Rush Sale:Bar & Resto Salcedo Vill. Makati 0919-4299141/8470398/8672135

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date 14 August, 2003
Reference No.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code **Sp02.QSSP.Vc-0336**
   Title **Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69KV Substation Equipment for Quiot Substation**
   Location **Cebu City**
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69kV Substation Equipment for Quiot Substation in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes construction of new control house, guardhouse, genset/pump house, oil water separator and water tank and water tank foundation.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **FORTY NINE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (PHP49,700,153.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract/project to be bid with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License Particular at least **"Category AA - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
   Registration Particular at least **"Large A - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for **issuance on August 14, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Ground flr., Transco Bldg., Power Complex, Building No. 2, NPC OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy.

   Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **September 12, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" or contractors issued by the CIAP.
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipts;
   - Contractor's License.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

19 Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug 16, 18 & 21, 2003)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : August 14, 2003
Reference No. : ____________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code **Sp99.N4P4.Vc-0282**
   Title **Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69KV Substation Equipment under the Negros IV - Panay IV Substation Projects, Schedule III - Panitan Substation**
   Location **Brgy. Timpas, Panitan, Capiz**
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138 & 69kV Substation Equipment for Schedule III - Panitan Substation in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes expansion of the existing control house and construction of new genset/pump house.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **TWENTY THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY & 00/100 (PHP23,821,280.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract/project to be bid with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License Particular : at least **"Category A - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
   Registration Particular : at least **"Medium B - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for **issuance on August 14, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Ground Floor, Transco Bldg Power Complex, Building No. 2, NPC OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. **Deadline** for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on,or before **September 12, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" or contractors issued by the CIAP.
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipts;
   - Contractor's License
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any application or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government

19. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Aug 16, 18 & 21, 2003)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel No 893-6001 ** 320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR/RETURN EXCHANGE PROGRAM OF SCR CARDS

EDC03-107

The Approved Budget is P3,181,115.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 12 months.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o R. A. Sison) starting August 14, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 27, 2003, 2:30 p.m. at the Ground Floor, Conference Room, Building V at the above address.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of September 11, 2003 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or two award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug 18, 2003)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

August 14, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Chief of Engineers, AFP is inviting contractors with IAC Category of Medium "B" and above & accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to submit sealed bids for the Construction of Food Services Building and Supply of Kitchen Equipment at Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC), V. Luna Road, Quezon City, Zip Code # 0840.

Interested contractors possessing the above qualification may apply for pre-qualifications by securing PRE-C form beginning August 18, 2003 from Project Management Division, Office of the Chief of Engineers, AFP Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished PRE-C with all the supporting documents and the original copy of PCAB Certificate for authentication purposes shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of September 5, 2003.

Bid/Tender Documents will be issued to all pre-qualified contractors starting September 15, 2003. A pre-bid conference for the project will be on October 1, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (AFPMC) Conference Room, V. Luna Road, Quezon City. All bids from pre-qualified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 a.m. of October 8, 2003 at the AFPMC Conference Room, V. Luna Road, Quezon City, after which time, all bids will be publicly opened.

This office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality, technicality and/or defect and to make the award to the bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. This office neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids nor does the office guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SERGIO A CANDELARIO JR
Brigadier General, AFP
The Chief of Engineers, AFP

(PDI - Aug 18, 22 & 29, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

August 6, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority invites road, building and sewerage contractors who have completed similar projects costing at least 50% of the proposed contract and accredited with PCAB to bid for the contracts listed below

Contract Package/Location	Approved Budget	PCAB License	Work Description/ Duration
Completion of Remaining Land Development Works, Garbage Disposal, Construction of Sewage Treatment and Repair of Permanent Housing at Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project, Tondo, Manila	P230.00 M.	"AAA"/LB for Roads, Buildings and Sewerage	Land development works including road works, garbage disposal and construction of sewage treatment plant

A. Interested contractors are required to secure from the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Floor NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and eligibility. Only NHA registered contractors shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on August 25, 2003.

B. The schedules of the eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:

Issuance of Application for Eligibility Forms -	August 13-26, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Req'ts	August 28, 2003 10:00 a.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 1-8, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	September 9, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids	September 30, 2003 not later than 10:00 a.m.

C. Eligibility requirement forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretariat Office with Tel. Nos. 929-8016 and 928-4561/65 local 262.

D. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P10,000.00

E. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.

F. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

G. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug 18 2003)

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET

CALL POEA (24-HR HOTLINES)

722-1144 or 722-1155

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF FEATI UNIVERSITY, INC.

The annual stockholders' meeting of the University has been moved from the last **Monday of August** to **27 October 2003** at **10:00 a.m.** A Special stockholders' meeting is likewise scheduled on **16 September 2003** at **10:00 a.m.** The venue of the meetings shall be at the Feati Board Room, Feati Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. The stockholders of record shall be duly furnished with the notices for the said meetings.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO A. SEGOVIA**
Chief Executive Officer

(PDI - Aug 18 2003)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AT THE DIRECTORS' AND STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF EPSILON HOLDINGS CORPORATION HELD ON 4 AUGUST 2003 AT ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES LOCATED AT THE GROUND FLOOR, TRINITY BUILDING, T.M. KALAW STREET, ERMITA, MANILA, THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE STOCKHOLDERS REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2/3 OF THE OUTSTANDING CAPITAL STOCK OF THE CORPORATION HAVE DECIDED TO EFFECT THE VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY AMENDING ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM TO 15 AUGUST 2003.

(PDI – AUGUST 11, 18 & 25, 2003)

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MARKETING INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
The Education and Training Arm
of the
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.

invites you to a seminar on

INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

This seminar is designed to provide marketing executives a solid understanding of an integrated approach towards marketing communication. Seminar participants shall be introduced to the various components of integrated marketing communications such as creative and media planning, promotions and public relations campaign, and direct marketing.

Topics are: "Hooking Up" The Channels Of Marketing Communications – Integrated Approach In The Go-To-Market Processes; When Public Relations Takes The Lead In Marketing Communications; Guerilla Marketing: Surprise Encounters In The Market Place. Market "Attacks" That Derail And Deflect Competitive Moves; Publication Strategies That Influence Reach And Sales Performance; and Non-Traditional Approaches To Marketing Communications.

Speakers are: Nina G. Infortuno, Ateneo Graduate School Professor in Advertising, Marketing Excellence Cluster; Ricardo C. de Vera, President, Pinpoint Direct Consultancy Center; Stephanie Dychiu, Managing Director, Custom Publishing, Summit Publishing; and Miguel C. Ramos, President, Aspac Advertising, Inc.

Schedule
August 26, 27 & 29, 2003 (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday)
1:00 P.M.– 6:00 P.M.
ACCEED - AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Course Fee
Early Bird Rate (up to August 15, 2003 ONLY)

PMA Member	P 4,700.00
Non-PMA Member	P 5,500.00

Regular Rate (August 16, 2003 onwards)

PMA Member	P 5,500.00
Non-PMA Member	P 6,000.00

For inquiries, please call the PMA Secretariat c/o Ms. Lydia Mariñas at tels: 893-7127; 813-0466; 892-3144 or fax: 892-3261; 893-8099 * E-mail: pma@philonline.com or lydiamm@edsamail.com.ph

ISRAEL DE CASTRO BOCOBO

Peacefully joined his Maker on August 17, 2003

His loving and devoted wife, **Teresita (†)**; children **George** and **Sari**, **Dean** and **Lynda**, **Christian** and **Ruby**, **Ezra** and **Grace**, **Mark** and **Lucille**, **Easter** and **Rock**, **Faith** and **Eric**, and all of our family ask for prayers and works of charity, for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Brgy. Forbes Park, Makati City. Final rites will be held on Friday, August 22, 2003 at 8:00 a.m.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered...
So truly missed...

MACRINA LAZATIN MORENO

Peacefully joined the Lord on August 16, 2003.

Her bereaved husband **Johnny**; children - **Trina & Jon**, **Juancho & Monica**; & **Millie**; grandchildren - **Mig**, **Sashi**, **Jules**, **Nathan & Padi**; brothers & sisters **Anicia**, **Victor**, **Trinidad Jr.**, **Boy**, **Manuel (†)**, **Fr. Philip**, **Mario & Pamela** & all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati City.

Cremation will follow after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on August 19, 2003 at Eternal Gardens.

Mass will be held at Carmelite at 9:00 a.m., August 21, 2003. Interment will follow at La Pieta Memorial Park, Angeles City.

She Loves Flowers.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...

CARMELITO FRIAS CATAYLO

Peacefully joined his Creator on 16 August 2003 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Laura (†)**; children **May** and **Elyas**, **Richie (†)**, **Paco**, **Lito** and **Poy**, **Pinky** and **Dennis**, **Lee** and **Noel**; siblings, grandchildren, and other loved ones request the reader to pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the UP Church of the Risen Lord, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 21 August 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Service.

So lovingly remembered....
So sadly missed...

In Loving Memory

on the **First (1st) Death Anniversary** of

ALICIA GARCIA SAN PEDRO

who died on 19 August 2002

Her family requests relatives, friends & pious readers to offer any of the Holy Masses for the eternal repose of her soul, on Tuesday, 19 August 2003, at the following churches:

■ **MONASTERIO DE STA. CLARA**, *Katipunan Ave. cor. Aurora Blvd.*	6:00 AM
■ **ST. PETER PARISH**, *Commonwealth Avenue*	6:00 AM
■ **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**, *BF Homes, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
■ **OUR LADY OF PENTECOST**, *Varsity Hills, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
■ **CONVENT OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT (Pink Sisters)** *Baguio City*	6:00 AM
■ **OUR LADY OF MANAOAG**, *Manaoag , Pangasinan*	7:00 AM (Aug. 15)
■ **OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE**, *EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue*	12:15 PM
■ **ST. THERESE PARISH**, *Dagupan City, Pangasinan*	5:15 PM
■ **STA. MARIA DELLA STRADA**, *Katipunan Avenue, near La Vista*	6:00 PM
■ **PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS**, *BF Homes, Ph III, Parañaque City*	7:00 PM

Our Dearly Beloved

Bettina Zamora Vda de Zamora

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 31, 2003, in Virginia, USA
And joined her husband **Peping Zamora (†)**

Her loving children **Mariza** and **Upo Rodelas (†)**, **Rica** and **Vic Mendoza (†)**, **Pinggoy (†)** and **Sonie Nepomuceno**, **Tina** and **Vinci Gatbunton**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters and in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will be at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Magallanes Village, Makati City on August 20, 2003.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Marikina on August 21, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Magallanes.

In Memory of its founder

Nestor Lopez Jose's

75th birthday

Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., is offering a 6pm Mass at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, Q.C.

"Unless the grain of wheat falls on the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24)

PRUCTUOSA CONCEPCION GUAMEN, Ed.D

of Biñan, Laguna
(August 23, 1924 – August 15, 2003)
Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 78.

Her loving husband Serafin (†); children Miriam and Conrad Marfil, Enrico and Maria, Marlyn and Ross Fernando, Ernani, and Edmund and Carole; grandchildren Elvin, Hanna, and Lukas; sisters and brothers Sitang, Chim, Peping, Pros, and Momoy (†); other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Colegio San Antonio, San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna. Interment will be on Tuesday, August 19, 2003 at the Biñan Municipal Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at San Antonio de Padua Parish Church.

Manuel "Dodong" Martinez

of Davao City
October 10, 1929 – August 15, 2003
Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 73.

His wife **Fely**; children **Gay** and **Bong (Jace)**; **Peewee** and **Nanette (Krizzia & Mack)**, **Boopsie (Aika)**; **Jet** and **Jaytee (Jordi)**; **Joker** and **Anna (LD & Mizzy)**; **Joy (NJ)**; and **Ray**. Sisters **Ging S. Martinez**; **Medy M. Silva**; **Neny M. Palacios**; in-laws; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory
On the 6th Death Anniversary of

Dr. Maria Cabanilla Esperanza Rodriguez

Died on August 18, 1997.

The "Esperanza Family" request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Mass will be offered at Mother of Perpetual Help Parish at 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City on the same day.

TRINIDAD PAGLINAWAN CESAR

"Ma'am Cesar"

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 15,2003.

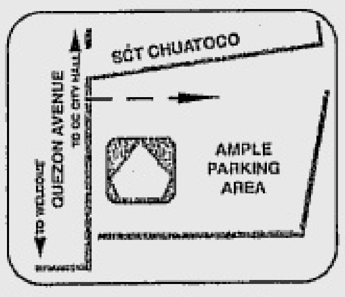
Her loving daughters **Bebie** and **Loi**; sister **Pacita**; sons-in-law, grandchildren and relatives request friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at No. 352 Blas Santos Velez St., Apovel Subd.,Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 22, 2003 at the Bulua Parish Cemetery immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Immaculate Concepcion Church, C.D.O.

The beauty of death is, dying in the gracious love of Jesus Christ, who says..

"...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;"
John 11:25 (NIV)



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*Phone: 410 9286 * 410.9287 * 372.5084 * 372.5083 * 374-4244 * 374-4274 374-3603 * or call Accounting Office: 371.2968 * 371.2969*

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him. *I Corinthians 2:9*

30 projects competing for P2-B e-gov't fund

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

DELA PEÑA

MORE than 30 proposals from various government agencies are jostling for the remaining P2-billion e-government fund for information technology projects, a member of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) committee on e-government said.

This fund was set aside by the Department of Budget and Management as part of Malacañang's effort to boost modernization in the government.

Fortunato dela Peña, undersecretary for information and communications technology of the science department, said that the ITECC expects to have a shortlist of "feasible" projects by the end of August.

At least four government IT projects have already been identified as "priority," Dela Peña said.

These projects include a portal of overseas Filipino workers by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, the national business registration of Department of Trade and Industry, the e-LGU project of the National Computer Center (NCC), and the Philippine government portal also with the NCC.

Dela Peña said that the e-government committee of the ITECC would likely choose government projects that are reflective of "ITECC's strategic roadmap."

The Commission on Elections has been an early beneficiary of the e-government fund, receiving P1.2 billion for the purchase of counting machines and transmission system for the 2004 polls.

Malacañang has also asked the DBM to set aside budgets out of the e-government fund for modernization projects of the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Internal Revenue, therefore reducing the original P4-billion e-government fund to about P2 billion, Dela Peña said.

He said that the ITECC e-government committee might also decide to "merge" some government IT projects, particularly those that have overlapping features and objectives.

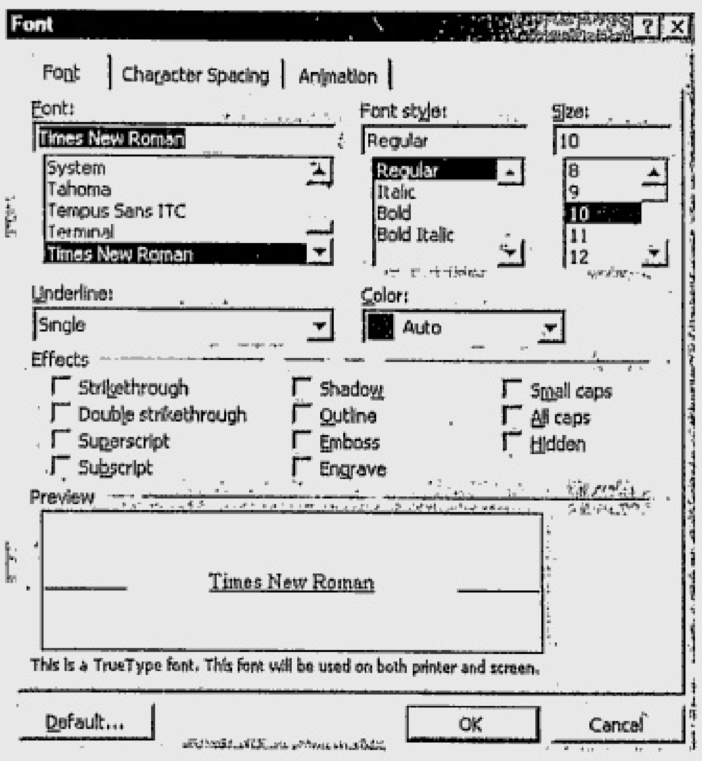
How to change your default font in Microsoft Word

By Jerry Liao

DO you want to use a particular text font, size, color and format every time you start Microsoft Word? Here's how:

1) Open MS Word.
2) Go to Format / Font.
3) Select the desired font, color, size, effect and underline.
4) Click on the Default button.
5) A dialog box asking you to confirm that you want to change the default font for the current template
6) Click on Yes.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. For your comments, questions and suggestions, send your e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com.



Font: Times New Roman
Font style: Regular
Size: 10
Underline: Single
Color: Auto
Preview: Times New Roman
This is a TrueType font. This font will be used on both printer and screen.

Samsung urges gov't to develop RP's gaming infrastructure

From page B16

become popular in the Philippines on a wide scale.

But if broadband connectivity facilitated the heavy use of online games and the Internet in South Korea, the Philippines has a lot of catching up to do. To speed up the rollout of broadband in the country, Eom suggested that government should support broadband infrastructure enhancement in the country by granting tax exemptions to providers and by giving benefits to the computer and game programming industries.

"You (Filipinos) have an in-born talent (in programming), and it's sad that it's not supported," Eom said.

Samsung is proving its support for computer gaming by sponsoring the World Cyber Games, a global gaming contest which Eom hopes would become the Olympics of the computer gaming industry. With about 600 gamers from 55 countries vying for a total cash prize of $350,000 in the grand finals to be held in Seoul from October 12 to 18, this is the second time Samsung is sponsoring the global event.

"We hope to make this the Olympics of gaming and show that it's no longer a game anymore but a kind of sport that develops technology skills," Eom said.

Tjader Regis, project manager for the Second Samsung Philippine Cyber Games, said that the number of local participants in the competition has increased by 50 percent this year to 12,000.

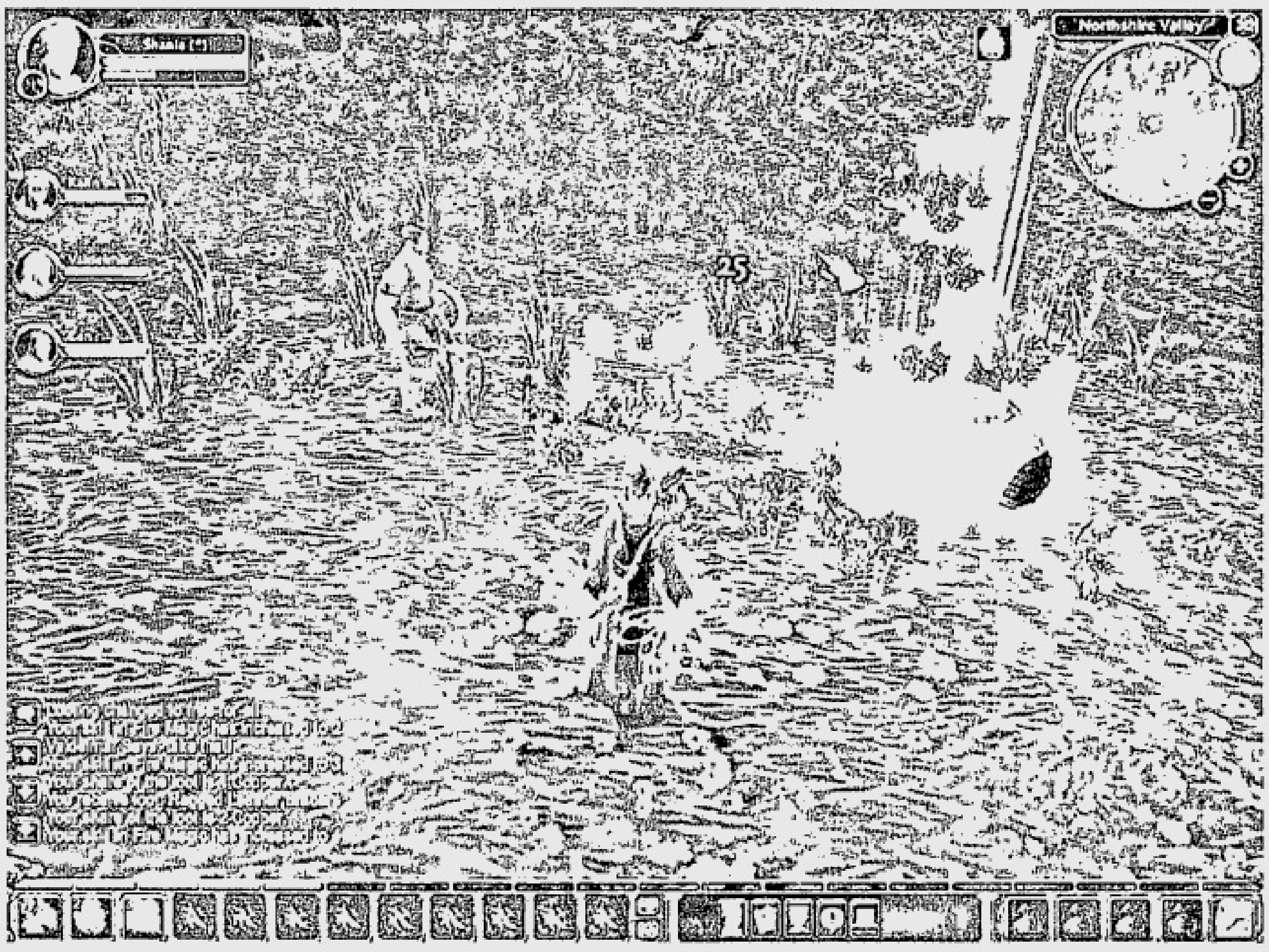
A 10-man Philippine delegation will be flown to South Korea in October to participate in the games. This delegation will be composed of one team leader, a five-man team for "CounterStrike," two representatives for "StarCraft: Brood War" and another two representatives for "WarCraft III." For the first time, the World Cyber Games will go beyond the networked PC arena and move on to the console with a competition in the game "Halo" on the Microsoft Xbox platform. However, no Filipino representative will participate in this event.

Asked how people would react to the glorification of games which has traditionally been seen as a bad influence to the youth, Regis said that people should see the bigger picture.

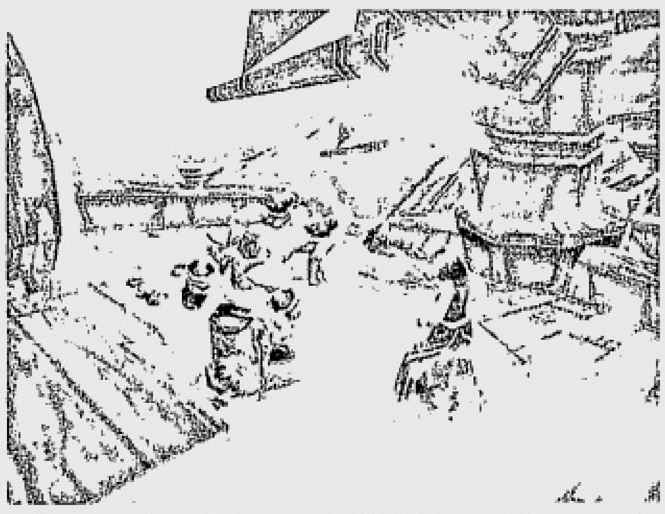
"People who say that are the ones who don't know about gaming and the ones who don't actually play," Regis said. "A lot of computer games build good logic skills, strategy and hand-eye coordination. It is a good way for children not to be afraid of technology."

Regis and Eom, however, agree that too much of anything is not good, and this applies not only to computer games but to other things as well.

Still, Eom said Samsung will continue to support the World Cyber Games because it is high time for the computer gaming industry to be taken seriously and accept it as part of the new cyber culture that won't just vanish precisely because it is no longer "child's play."



ONE of the games included in the finals of the World Cyber Games to be held in South Korea is WarCraft III, a popular networked PC fantasy game. Two Filipino cyber warriors will compete in the WarCraft category, joined by two more who will compete in StarCraft: Brood War and a five-man team who will shoot it out with the best of the world in CounterStrike, another popular networked PC game. For the first time, a console game—Halo—will be included in the competitions on the Microsoft Xbox platform but unfortunately no Filipino will compete in that category.



No replacement yet for NCC chief

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE DEPARTMENT of Science and Technology (DOST) is not likely to name a new chief for the National Computer Center. This was after Ibarra Gonzales, now ex-head of the agency, filed for an indefinite leave as a precursor to his resignation.

Sources said that since the NCC is set to be placed under the proposed Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Commission, it will just put in place an officer in charge of the agency.

Fortunato dela Peña, undersecretary for ICT at the DOST, was designated officer in charge, as the agency remains in limbo.

In a separate interview, Dela Peña said that the DOST has indeed not conducted an active search for a new candidate for the post.

"But this is our decision. We don't know if Malacañang will appoint a replacement," Dela Peña said.

Sources said Gonzales was planning to leave for the United States prior to his filing for indefinite leave.

Before joining the NCC, Gonzales was working under the Office of the President on the "Eskwela ng Bayan" program. He replaced Delfin Sabido who was also NCC chief for more than a year until he resigned.

Penis enlargement spammer exposed

AUCKLAND—A New Zealander was revealed as one of the major global senders of Internet spam offering penis enlargement.

The New Zealand Herald said Shane Atkinson's business was sending 100 million e-mail messages a day. To avoid being shut down, Atkinson hosts a variety of domains on spam-friendly providers in Poland and Pakistan who ignore complaints.

Many of his e-mails were along the lines of "How to boost your penis size and self-esteem" and "Satisfy your lover with an increased penis size."

Atkinson said he had been spamming for a year and had no qualms about it. He would not give details on how profitable his business was, but said it allowed him to keep a nice car and own a house.

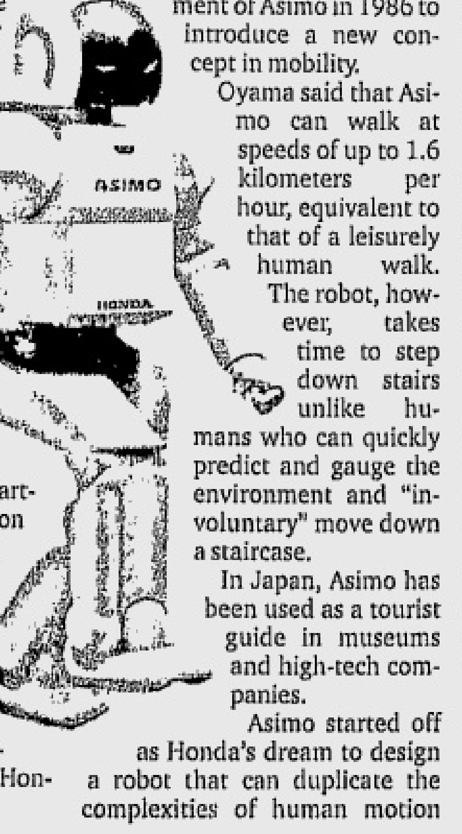
On a good day, Atkinson and his associates sent "up to 100 million" messages. In his view, spam was part and parcel of being online.

"If you don't want to receive spam, don't connect to the Internet, or don't have an e-mail address."

AFP

Asimo, Honda's walking robot, wows RP audiences

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva



WATCHING Honda's humanoid robot Asimo walk conjures images of science fiction writer Isaac Asimov's fictional robot characters designed either as servants or companions to human beings.

But unlike Asimov's imagined robots, Honda believes that Asimo (short for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility) is the closest human-like contraption that could move, think and react to environmental stimulus like human gestures.

During its debut in the Philippines, Asimo's creator said that the robot was capable of understanding some human postures and gestures, and could respond to them just like a human being, apart from being able to walk in perfect balance.

According to one website on Asimo, the robot's ability to interact with humans has improved significantly. It can greet approaching people, follow them, move in the direction they indicate, and even recognize faces and address people by name.

Asimo can also be wired to the Internet, and can therefore be operated remotely.

Honda said that starting January 2003, the company plans to start the rental of the new version of Asimo to public institutions and companies.

"Asimo is created to be a partner of the people, a companion to be of service to humanity. Standing four feet tall and weighing 115 pounds, Asimo is likened to a 10-year-old boy. With his size, he can operate freely in the human living environment," said Yasuhiro Oyama, president of Honda Philippines Inc.

Honda began development of Asimo in 1986 to introduce a new concept in mobility.

Oyama said that Asimo can walk at speeds of up to 1.6 kilometers per hour, equivalent to that of a leisurely human walk. The robot, however, takes time to step down stairs unlike humans who can quickly predict and gauge the environment and "involuntary" move down a staircase.

In Japan, Asimo has been used as a tourist guide in museums and high-tech companies.

Asimo started off as Honda's dream to design a robot that can duplicate the complexities of human motion and genuinely help people. Asimo took more than 16 years of study, research and trial and error before Honda engineers achieved their dream of creating an advanced humanoid robot.

Honda's work in humanoid robotics started in 1986. Engineers first set out to master the principles of walking. Early experimental models focused on developing a set of legs that could simulate the complex, dynamic walk of a human being. In later prototype models, Honda engineers added a head, body and arms to the robot. They then set out to improve walking and balancing skills and to allow the robot to grasp or move objects.

After the basic design and later models were created, Honda started hoping that Asimo might someday serve as another set of eyes, ears and legs for people in need. Honda believes, just like Asimov has written in his books, that Asimo would evolve into a companion robot that is more human-like.

Blaster virus hits RP . . .

From page B16

senior technology consultant for Sophos Anti-Virus.

Sophos said that the Blaster worm does not spread via e-mail. It instead propagates itself via the Internet looking for vulnerable computers that have not been patched against a security hole first reported by Microsoft in mid-July 2003.

Antivirus firm Trend Micro added that the worm exploits a new vulnerability in the Windows system. It takes advantage of a system buffer overflow in the "Windows Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) Remote Procedure Call (RPC)" interface in Windows.

This vulnerability allows an attacker to gain full access to a system and execute any software program on a target machine, leaving it compromised.

This worm is also continuously scanning random Internet addresses, particularly those that are vulnerable, Trend Micro said.

The worm also launches a distributed denial of service attack against the "windowsupdate.com" website on the 16th to the 31st days in the months of January to August, and any day in the months of September to December.

Microsoft provides the vast majority of computer operating systems for companies and personal computers used around the world. Microsoft said the Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows NT and Windows Server 2003 were the most vulnerable and urged immediate action.

Infected computers can be cleared by downloading a patch from Microsoft and then running a worm removal tool from an anti-virus firm.

"By attempting a denial of service attack on the windowsupdate.com website, the virus author is deliberately trying to make it difficult for computer users to download the patch they need to secure their copies of Windows against the worm. It's an extremely devious trick by Blaster's author," Cluley said.

InfoTech

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Editor Leo Magno

Blaster virus hits RP firms

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SOFTWARE firm Microsoft admitted that several of its customers in the Philippines were hit by the "Blaster" worm, a virus that targets Microsoft's Windows operating system.

Blaster, also known as "LovSan" and "MSBlast," spread rapidly around the world last week, crashing tens of thousands of computers and slowing Internet traffic. Microsoft said the Philippines was not spared.

"We're currently helping several clients address the situation," said Mae Rivera, marketing communications manager of Microsoft Philippines, adding that local Microsoft team of consultants have been dispatched to help these companies address the situation.

Industry sources told INQ7.net that two telephone companies were among those badly hit by the worm that exploits a Windows system vulnerability first discovered on July 16.

However, Rivera declined to name the companies affected in the Philippines, but said that. Microsoft Philippines is working closely with several companies that were hit by the virus.

"In this kind of situation, we implement a 'critical situation tool' which is a process that we have designed to address problems such as this. A team is dispatched to the affected companies. We already have dispatched them. They're now working with some local customers," Rivera said.

She added that the local situation has been "stabilized."

According to antivirus firms, the worm—which showed signs of waning over the weekend—contains a mocking message directed at Microsoft's chair and software architect Bill Gates.

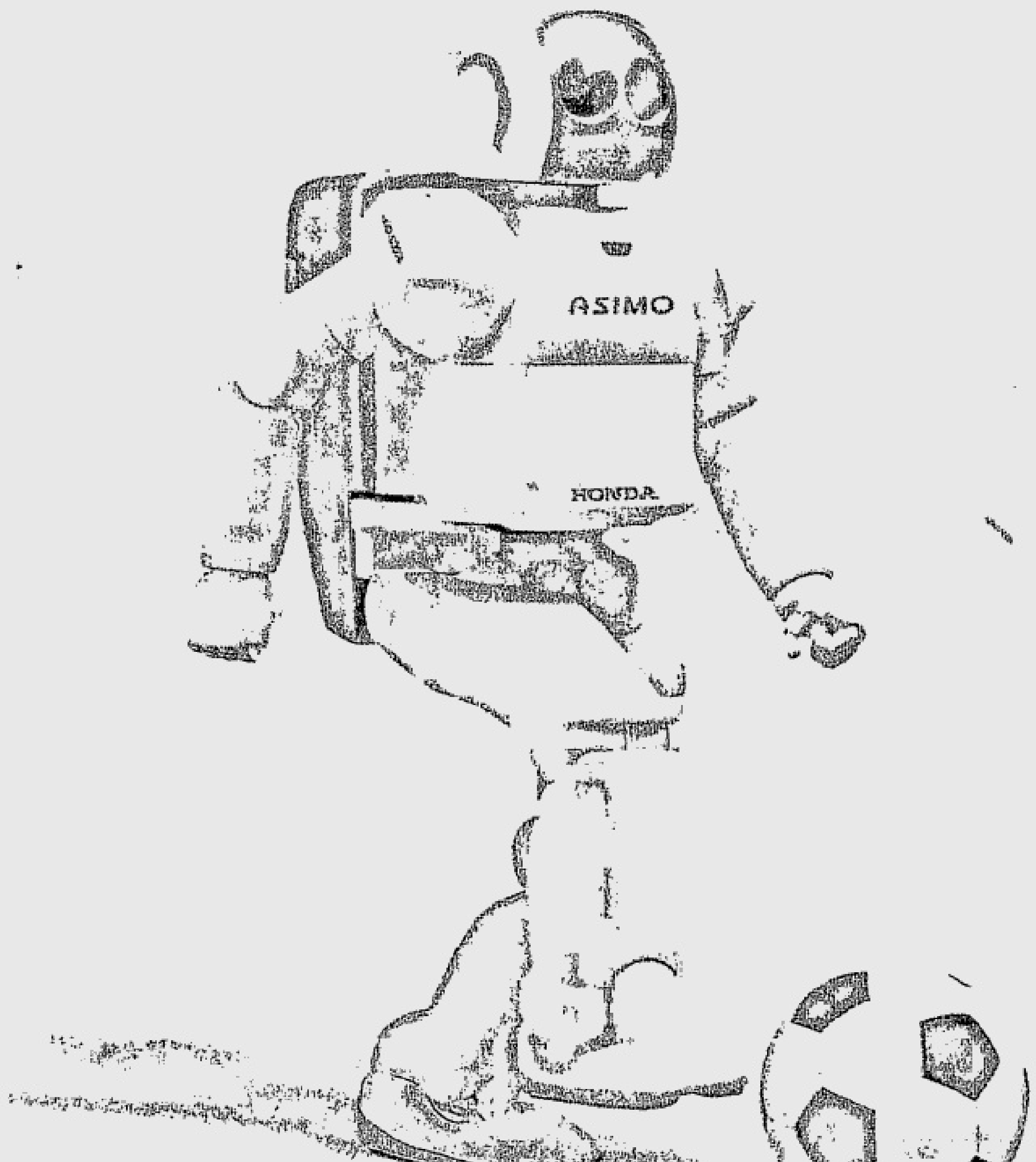
The message says: "I just want to say LOVE YOU SAN!! billy gates why do you make this possible? Stop making money and fix your software!!"

Network Associates, antivirus firm McAfee's parent company, reported thousands of computers crashing across the Asia Pacific after being infected by the worm. The company said 3,500 computers at one regional firm were hit.

"Blaster attempts to knock Microsoft's windowsupdate.com website off the Internet," said Graham Cluley,

BLASTER/B15

Meet ASIMO !



Meet **ASIMO** or **A**dvanced **S**tep in **I**nnovative **MO**bility, the pinnacle of Honda's technology and commitment to bring joy to man. ASIMO's human-like height, dimensions and abilities were specifically designed to be of practical use in actual human environments. The breakthrough Honda technology used for ASIMO such as Prediction Movement Control, 26° of Freedom, Intelligent Real-Time Flexible Walk is considered a huge step in robotics. With Honda's creation of a humanoid robot, the dream of robots co-existing with man is made possible.

Honda technology opens up new possibilities in mobility and brings us a step closer to improving our way of life. Be one of the first to meet ASIMO, Honda's most advanced humanoid robot as he visits Manila!

ASIMO

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Level 1 Exhibit Area & Level 2 Grand Atrium on Aug. 23 to 24, 2003.
ASIMO's shows starts at 1:00pm. See you there!

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

EOM: Philippines should not miss educational opportunities behind game industry.

Samsung urges gov't to develop RP's gaming infrastucture

By Leo Magno

INTERACTIVE games have long been relegated into the background of the multibillion-dollar technology and entertainment industries, but South Korean technology giant Samsung has put up a bold front by supporting computer games and giving the industry a needed push.

Even today, the computer gaming industry is suffering from an identity crisis since it borders between the categories of technology application and interactive entertainment. Samsung Electronics Philippines president and CEO Sang Youl Eom, however, believes it is high time for the industry to be given support and be acknowledged as a legitimate global industry.

"Gaming is a natural course—there's no stopping it," Eom said. "It is a good introduction to technology because it makes learning fun."

Eom said that gaming has created an unstoppable cyber culture that becomes a good catalyst for the development of technology-related industries and skills such as those in multimedia and animation. He added that gaming should now be seen in a legitimate light and not just as something which children do to waste precious time.

"Gaming is becoming a kind of sport," said Eom. "Take a look at billiards. It didn't use to be a sport but now it is, and it's now accepted worldwide."

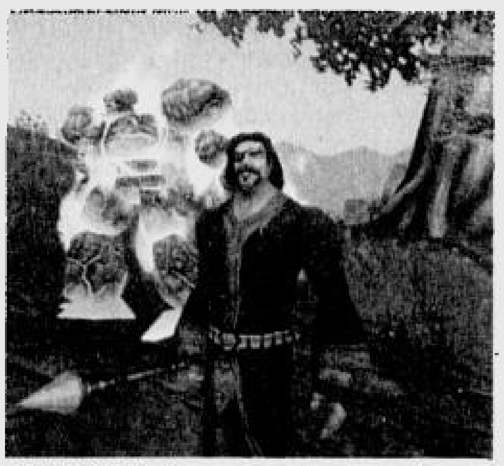
Eom added that because of the time spent by the youth in playing billiards, Filipino billiard players today win worldwide billiards competition. The Philippines even recently set up a competitive billiards league called the Corporate Billiards League.

Between billiards and gaming, however, Eom would rather see his children play computer games. He said that so much social energy in the Philippines is being used up for billiards, energy which Eom believes should be converted to more time for computer gaming.

At first glance, allowing children to devote time to computer games sounds like an incorrect way for parents to rear their offspring. However, Eom explained that in South Korea, playing online games and using the Internet go together naturally and is seen as a good introduction to technology. This is partly because South Korea is one of the most wired countries in the world, with broadband connection to homes becoming more common.

In the Philippines, however, broadband connection is not yet affordable for most residential subscribers. Not everyone can play games online and connect to the Internet. It becomes interesting to note, then, that a South Korean online game called Ragnarok—a fantasy game which now has around 11,000 players online—is the first to

SAMSUNG/B15



SAMSUNG believes computer games form part of a bigger technology ecosystem that includes the development of other industries such as multimedia and computer animation.

BUSINESS*Monday*

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Secrets to staying power of family firms

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

UNQUALIFIED or incompetent family members who get juicy positions in the family corporation are usually called unflattering names by their employees.

This is because many of them earned their promotions by blood, not by competence.

And this practice ultimately caused the demise of many prominent family corporations.

Some examples of prominent family conglomerates that faded away from the business scene were the ones owned by Palancas, Elizaldes, Yulos, Kalaws, Cabarruses, Angs and Littons. The list goes on.

Stumbling blocks

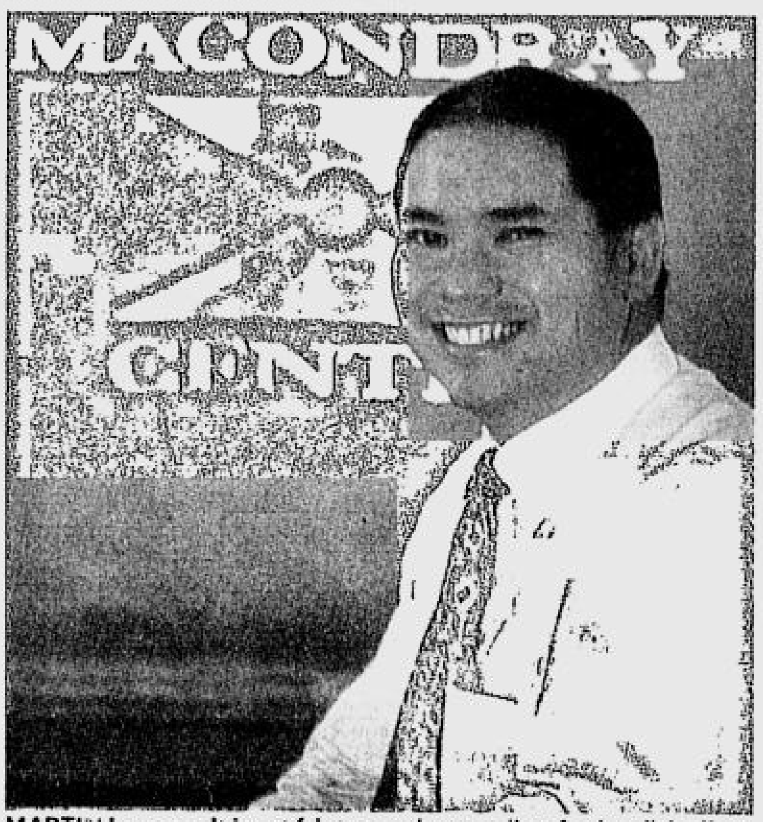
Putting unqualified family members in key departments is just one of the stumbling blocks to the growth of family businesses, according to Ricardo H. Mercado, a professor at the Ateneo School of Business and a consultant to many family corporations, during the recent 3rd Business Leadership forum.

"Many family businesses later find that the family itself becomes the stumbling block," Mercado says.

Some family members, for instance, would rather harvest the company's profits than reinvest these for additional growth.

Then there are sibling rivalries or competition between generations on how to run the company. Pride and jealousy get in the way of sound decision-making.

There are also cases where the founder refuses to let go of power. He or she wants all the decisions to run through him, hampering the company's ability to respond to changes in the business environment or increasing competition.



MARTIN Lorenzo: It is not fair to use the term "professionalizing" a family corporation because a family running a business does not necessarily mean that it is not professional. Having a strategic plan, allows the family members to integrate their goals.

Two systems

But if the company grows despite these challenges, Mercado says the founder then realizes that he is actually working with two systems—the family system where he has to keep family members happy and the company system where he has to think about growth and profits.

Mercado says family corporations that have successfully grown from generation to generation were able to balance the interests of the company and the family.

These family corporations were also able to bring in non-family members to occupy key positions in the company, and at the same time keep the members committed to the future of the business.

"A desire to make everybody happy can get unqualified members to go to the company to the detriment of others who are more qualified. On the other hand, over emphasis on the business to the detriment of family may result if the family is no longer able to relate to each other. There will no longer be commitment and an indication of this is the lack of desire to put in additional capital," Mercado says.

The key, he stresses, is balance and having a parallel planning process that would carry values of the family to the business.

"In the end, the family needs to arrive at a business that everybody would agree and commit to," Mercado says.

Martin P. Lorenzo of the Lorenzo family that owns Del Monte and Lapanday Holdings, on the other hand, says that it is not fair to use the term "professionalizing" a family corporation because a family running a business does not necessarily mean that it is not professional.

There is no difference, particularly in profitable corporations, he says, because a family business should be run professionally for it to grow.

He cites the US experience, where about 37 percent of the Fortune 500 are family-owned corporations and family corporations account for half of the Gross National Product in the United States, same goes for Latin America and even in Europe.

In the Lorenzo family, he says the key to their harmonious relationship and business growth is having a strategic plan, which their father laid down.

Having a strategic plan, he says, allows the family members to integrate their goals, and the family a cohesive unit.

And once the family agrees to their part in the growth of the company, then the group can move on to developing firm strategies for the corporation.

"All the business decisions must match what the family wants for itself and its values or else you would not want to grow it, it would just be a waste of time and money," Lorenzo says.

The employees, on the other hand, are motivated to work just as hard for the company because they know that a family member in the company is there because he is competent.

"Our compensation as family members are also performance based. We are accountable too," he says.

Jose Concpecion III, CEO of RFM Corp., on the other hand, believes that family corporations, depending on the size, would either diminish or turn into a more publicly held corporation, especially after the founding shareholder is gone.

"You will have problems in a family corporation when the founding shareholder is gone and there is no dominant shareholder who holds the stock. Because then the organization becomes too democratic and it is difficult to manage," he says.

JOSE Concepcion III: Family corporations, depending on the size, would either diminish or turn into a more publicly held corporation, especially after the founding shareholder is gone.

Concepcion adds that it is not easy balancing interests of family members, especially if business models they are looking at different.

"It really depends on the kind of family business you have but usually there are two pressure points—the company needs money for growth and the stockholders need money because for their livelihood," he says.

"The problem comes in at that point where you would want to balance the needs of your shareholders and the company, where you want to leave the money there for growth," Concepcion adds.

Family conglomerates that have continued to grow, expand and succeed through the generations such as the Ayalas, Lopezes and Aboitizes, can attribute it to good governance principles and sound management practices.

Good governance is defined as the conscience, the moral dimension and the integrity of the board and the management while sound management principles are the quantitative and qualitative techniques of managing the business.

Paris = pah-ri

coupè = kuh-pay

cabriolet = kab-rio-lay

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For over a century, Peugeot has been manufacturing vehicles and taking part in racing them. Racing reflects the battle that unfolds in the marketplace; it allows the brand to demonstrate its technological expertise and injects even more passion into the work.

Through the years, Peugeot has been dominating races in all four corners of the world. From the fabled Indianapolis speedway to the torturous Paris-Dakar Rally and the exciting 24-hour Le Mans, Peugeot's lion emblem is a marque to be reckoned with. Peugeot's return to the World Rally Championship in 2000 was a huge success – the team claimed both the Driver's and Manufacturer's titles. 2001 and 2002 offered the same amazing results, cementing Peugeot's status as the most dominant team of the new millennium.

Peugeot is setting up shop in the Philippines as it brings in three exciting models: the World Rally Champion 206 road version; the 206cc which is the world's first four-passenger car with retractable roof; and the Innovative Car of the Year 307. AutoFrance Philippines, Inc. exclusively distributes Peugeot with its dealer/showroom located at the Peugeot Ortigas Centre, ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Gaylan Technologies confirms booth at PDMAEC 2003

GAYLAN Technologies, one of the leading companies in the metalworking industry, recently confirmed its participation in the PDMAEC 2003 (Philippine Die & Mold Association Exhibition and Conference 2003) to be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center from Aug. 28 to 31. PDMAEC 2003 is the 1st exhibition and conference of die and mold, machine tools, equipment, accessories and other related products and services organized by the Philippine Die & Mold Association of the Philippines.

Gaylan Technologies is the exclusive representative and distributor of world famous manufacturers Agie Charmilles die sink, wire-cut and small holes drillling EDMs, BOB CAD/CAM NC programming software for 2 and 3 axes CNC milling, Cnc turning, laser, water jet, routers, flame cutting, plasma cutting and 2 to 4 wire EDM, EMCO educational and production CNCs, training systems and ODA-assisted projects; EMCO Test hardness testers and solutions, Erowa tooling systems, Deltronic optical comparator, video measuring equipment, thread and plug gauges, GMS shearing machines and pressbrakes, GTech precision surface grinders, Haas, America's number one complete CNC manufacturer of machining centers, lathes and rotary products;

Harig precision surface grinding machines, Hypertherm plasma cutting system, IMS combination contact and non-contact 3D video CMM, Joen LIH surface grinders; Leybold laboratory equipment and didactic materials in physics, natural science, electrical and electronic disciplines, Mitosa/Pinacho precision lathes, Mikron high-speed CNC milling machines, Muratec turret punch presses, pressbrakes and shearing machines, Nabertherm furnaces, kilns and ovens, Nakanihon vacuum furnaces, Prostar precision grinders and milling machines, Renishaw digitisers and scanners for mold and die industries, Samson milling machines; Stratasys rapid prototyping machines, 3R tooling systems and Vertex toolings for EDM, drill press, lathe and milling, and more.

Gaylan Technologies provides single-source responsibility for engineering analysis of equipment/ machining requirements, supply of hardware and/or software, provision of services for installation, training of operators/programmers, repair, maintenance and after sales services.

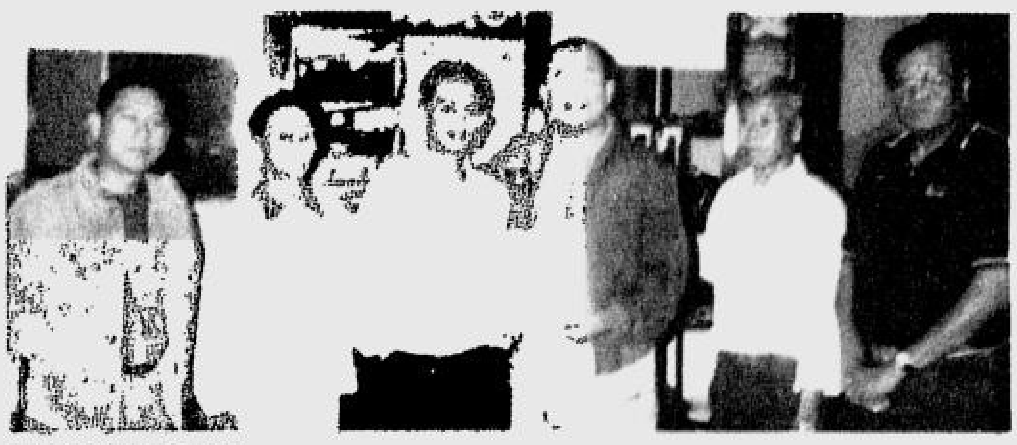
Gaylan Technologies gives full support to PDMAEC 2003. In fact, Essie R. Gaylan (MD) is the exhibition committee chair.

Other exhibitors include Assab Philipines, Automation Security, Avadon International, Bon Industrial Supply, Cadtech Systems, Colt Commercial, Edman Machtools, ME Industrial Machinery, Maedan Enterprises, Nicklaus Machinery, Penta Technological Products, RMC Equipment Philippines.

For more information about PDMAEC 2003, call Angilica Barrios or Lady Galura of Market Access Innovations Management Philippines (MAI) at 898-2198 or 890-1087. MAI is the show management company appointed for PADMAEC 2003.

RICHWELL TRADING, GETZ BROS SIGN CONTRACT

Richwell recently appointed Getz Bros. Philippines as its distributor for supermarket and drugstore chains for Pigeon Baby Products. From left are: Ed Salting, national sales manager; Ed Mauricio, division manager, consumer products; Karrot Nitura, category manager; Romy Rodil, acting president; Myrna T. Yao, COO, Richwell; Liza T. Yao, vice president for merchandising, Richwell.



PEPSI SCHOLAR

Elmer G. Aquino (left), a Pepsi-Cola Foundation Inc scholar, is shown here receiving a plaque of appreciation from Pepsi-North Luzon group general manager Valeriano Lugti. Aquino completed his electronics and communications engineering course at St. Louis University in Baguio City this summer. He is one of five Pepsi-Cola Foundation beneficiaries who graduated from the scholarship program for the school year 2002-2003. Launched in 1994, the Pepsi scholarship program has already helped 32 deserving students from the provinces to finish their college degrees. Looking on are Elmer's parents and officers of Pepsi North Luzon operations.

Smart's wet and wild party at zero degree

IT HAD been a wet, wild and freezing evening as Smart, Simply Amazing, presented Freeze: the Chill Party July 19 at the AF Pasig Cold Storage Plant, Pasig City.

Freeze: the Chill Party was primarily situated in an ice plant, where natural heat did not even exist.

Cold as it got, BB Fred of 99.5 RT warmed the crowd with fun and exiting activities by the sponsors. Loads of cool stuff like wall clocks, shirts and school kits were given away in a seemingly endless raffle draw. Well, what could we do? Smart was just amazingly generous.

The raffle was followed by another hot, sexy game called "Drink It Up" from Nescafe. Three fun-loving ladies from the crowd raced to finish a cup of coffee and say the tagline "Nescafe, Masarap na Simula".

Another highlight for this event was a fashion show, which featured the wide, cool and avant-garde collection of Chocolate Clothing Company. Luscious and gorgeous models exhibited Grab, Earthangel and Skin Freeze.

Loads more of games were concocted by Smart, one of which was Brain Freeze, wherein contestants attempted to finish a serving of Strawberry Chill (combination of crushed ice and strawberry syrup). Afterwards, they would shout "Smart, Simply Amazing!"

Another hair-raising game was the Frigid Zone wherein three guys were challenged to lie down in a block of ice. The person able to stay there the longest won the game.

After the program, DJ Dingdong of Club Crib enticed the crowd with the upbeat, chilling rave music. The crowd strutted its stuff amidst the beer binge.

Freeze: the Chill Party was presented by Smart, Simply Amazing, in cooperation with Nescafe, Masarap na Simula and Chocolate Clothing Company.

SMART
Simply Amazing!
FREEZE
THE CHILL PARTY

This brain freezing rave event was also made possible by Tricks styling gel and Rustan's Essenses, with the special participation of Club Crib, Lucy Britanico, and Lemon Magazine. This event was organized by the BIG Picture Productions.

New look boosts INQ7 ad revenue

AFTER unveiling a new look for its homepage last month, INQ7.net has announced that the site redesign has resulted in a significant rise in advertising revenue.

According to INQ7 sales director Michael Sy, the company hit 119 percent of local sales targets in June. Sy said that that the "over-quota" had a direct connection to the new look, citing the new sales bookings.

"We had advertisers who were greatly encouraged to sign up because they saw the potentials of new and effective ad spaces made available in the new design. Because of this, many of our clients opted to either increase their placements or chose to advertise for longer durations, or both. It's like a bandwagon effect," Sy said.

Among the additions to INQ7's list of new advertisers is software giant Microsoft Corp., joining other leaders in their respective industries such as Ayala Land, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Chinatrust, Citibank, Ford, Honda, Hewlett-Packard, LBC, Megaworld, myAyala, Oracle, Philam Life, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Philippine National Bank, Siemens, and many more.

"In line with our commitment to effectively deliver accurate and up-to-date news and information to our online readers, we will not only continue to improve the look of our website, but will provide more ad opportunities for our advertisers as well. These two services are directly related to each other," said Ramon Lizardo, INQ7 vice president for Business and Linkages.

INQ7 will soon launch a number of new Web and wireless projects that are expected to have a significant impact on online news and information delivery.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is a joint venture between the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

Monsanto unveils key to food security at Agrilink 2003

THE LOCAL subsidiary of one of the world's leading providers of agricultural products and technologies is set to unveil the key to the country's food security, specifically in the field of rice and corn productivity.

Monsanto Philippines Inc will demonstrate the application of new technologies that will enable farmers to enormously increase the yields of those two important crops, which are the staple food for human and livestock consumption.

Increased production of rice and corn is the key to coping with the ever-rising demand of the country's fast growing population, now estimated at some 83 million.

Sufficiency in rice and corn will also enable the nation to reduce and ultimately eliminate their importation and thus save on precious dollars.

Monsanto will highlight how these will be achieved at the Agrilink and Foodlink 2003, the country's biggest and most prestigious international agribusiness and food trade show, which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 16 to 18.

Monsanto's demonstration at Agrilink/Foodlink 2003 is part of its program to reach out to its local market of over 1 million rice farmers and more than 200,000 corn farmers in 59 provinces in the Philippines. Nationwide, some 3.3 million hectares of land are planted to rice, and 2.5 million hectares to corn.

Among the technologies to be highlighted are Monsanto's Conservation Tillage technology, known as the Tipid-Saka program, which helps conserve soil moisture, prevents topsoil erosion, enhances soil fertility, improves water availability to plants, averts early emergence of weeds, lessens pesticide application, cuts land preparation by half, and minimizes labor cost while maximizing potential yields.

Monsanto will also focus on Magilas 500 Hybrid Rice seed product, which is highly resistant to both the stem borer and the fungo virus. This rice variety is now an important element of the government's food sufficiency program.

Monsanto also has herbicide products of cutting-edge technology such as Advance, Direk, Rogue, and Machete for effective control of weeds in rice, and Power and Round-up for general weed control.

Likewise, Monsanto has introduced YieldGard, the revolutionary Asian corn borer-protected corn made possible through modern technology. This variety can resist the catastrophic effect of the borer that can diminish yield by 20 to 80 percent.

YieldGard was recently approved for domestic propagation by the government.

Such products of Monsanto's biotechnology include Roundup Ready Corn, Canola and Soybean, which are herbicides resistant and limit the use of chemicals that are considered harmful to the environment.

These are some of Monsanto's many contributions to sustainable development and exemplary corporate citizenship, which will be highlighted in Agrilink/Foodlink 2003 and aptly showcased by its theme "Corporate Citizenship: Touching Lives, Strengthening Linkages."

"Our trade show will go beyond the normal commercial objectives of business by highlighting corporate citizenship that touches lives and strengthens linkages," said Rosalino Perez, project director of Agrilink and Foodlink 2003.

Supported by more than 30 industry associations, Agrilink and Foodlink have been attracting exhibitors from the Philippines, Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, and the rest of the world.

Its number of visitors surged from 3,000 in 1995 to 18,000 last year, while booked and negotiated sales from P27.8 million to P78 million.

The twin events are organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (8384549, 8384852; fax 8384573, e-mail frld@info.com.ph).

UNILEVER PHILIPPINES HONORS DOH SECRETARY

Unilever Philippines, makers of leading home and personal care, foods and ice cream products, recently presented a Plaque of Commendation to Secretary Manuel Dayrit of the Department of Health. This is in recognition of Dayrit's exemplary leadership in the country's fight against SARS. The Secretary has led the National Anti-SARS Task Force in providing swift and sustained response in addressing the dreaded disease. Shown is Dayrit receiving the plaque from Chito Macapagal, GM for corporate development of Unilever, during the Anti-SARS National Scientific Convention held at the World Trade Center. Unilever assisted during the SARS crisis by donating Lifebuoy soaps and Domex All-Around Cleaner to San Lazaro Hospital, Research Institute for Topical Medicine (RITM), Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and to the public schools in Manila.

Bits & Clips

TB control training workshop

UNILAB'S learning resource center Umed co-sponsors a basic training workshop on Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) of tuberculosis on Aug. 18. The one-day course at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel includes didactic lectures and hands-on practicum on the National TB Program (NTP) treatment regiments using the DOT method. A train-the-trainers module in the workshop is for core trainers of professional societies involved in NTP activities. The module will be handled by professor Michael D. Iseman, chief of the Clinical Mycobacterial Disease Service of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, Colorado. The Philippine Tuberculosis Incentives for the Private Sector (PhilTips) and the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) ARE Umed's co-sponsors of this CME event. For more details, call Umed at 631-8501 loc. 7122, telefax 746-9099.

Lobster specials

EXPERIENCE Chinese cuisine at its finest as Edsa Shangri-La's Summer Palace presents "Lobster Specials" until today, Aug. 18. The lobster is sometimes called the "Cardinal of the Seas" because it is the largest shellfish and it turns from greenish-gray to an appetizing red-orange when cooked. This seafood delicacy is highly popular because of its white, dense-textured and flavorful meat. Some of the lobster dishes specially prepared by Chinese executive sous chef Chan Yiu So are cold lobster salad, live lobster sashimi, baked lobster in superior stock, lobster congee, lobster with dried shrimps, sautéed lobster in a variety of sauces such as garlic, XO and dried chili. Enjoy the new ambience of Summer Palace at the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-8888 extensions 2738 and 2739.

ProductFILES

Recreating old-style grillery

IF YOU'RE craving for special twists in your favorite Filipino dishes, check out the newly opened Tolda Grill in Shaw Boulevard (in front of Starmall). Aside from an exciting selection of dishes, this new place offers the lower by more than up to 50 percent than other grilleries.

Inspired by the old Parisian concept of al fresco dining, Tolda Grill features a wide restaurant area covered with a huge white tent (tolda in the vernacular) and surrounded with a bamboo fence and plants. There is no need for air-conditioning, and the savings are given back to the customers in the form of low food prices.

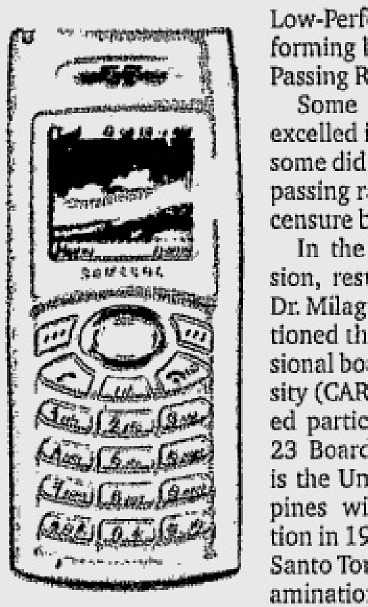
Try visiting Tolda Grill in the evening and enjoy the cool, unassuming ambiance while savoring the food. Tolda Grill is open from 9 a.m. daily. For inquiries, deliveries or party packages, call 535-7819.

Cool and Charmee

CHARMEE is today's brand for women who want to feel fresher and cooler all day. Charmee Powder Cool is the newest variant of Charmee Pantyliners that liberates the user from the irritating feeling brought by everyday stress, intense pressure from school or being caught in monstrous traffic. Wearing Charmee Powder Cool pantyliners with the unexpectedly breeziest scent gives you the feeling of coolness and freshness down under. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Unitrade Merchandise Inc, Charmee Powder Cool pantyliners are available at all leading supermarkets nationwide.

Charmee
PANTYLINER

Samsung opens first DigitAll service center



SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines, Inc. has announced the opening of its first DigitAll Service Center in Cebu City, providing Samsung cell phone owners with local support and fast response time.

To further enhance customer satisfaction, Samsung is planning to open 10 more DigitAll Service Centers nationwide, with five centers in Metro Manila and the remaining located in Baguio City, Cagayan de Oro, Davao City and Tacloban.

The service center aims to provide customers with after-sales service from accredited Samsung product specialists. It also serves as a showroom for new Samsung hand-held phones, enabling customers to avail of free downloads of service applications, icons and ringtones, and purchase other phone accessories such as casings and battery chargers.

Samsung has achieved a large market share in the local cell phone market. In order to achieve leadership status in the category, it is Samsung's responsibility to our customers to extend that investment by establishing a service center in the Philippines," Samsung Electronics Philippines vice president for sales and marketing Martin Maengdal Bae said.

What is being done to attack corruption?

From page B2-4

ber 2002.

Congress has also passed the new procurement law, Republic Act No. 9184, last January. However, as of this writing, the implementing rules and regulations are still being crafted.

More corruption is possible when there are more middlemen involved. As such, it makes sense to find ways to cut the number of middlemen or to eliminate them completely. This can be achieved through hi-tech means.

Both the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs are expanding their use of information technology. Computerization helps bypass the middlemen, makes deals transparent, and leaves an electronic trail of records. The E2M program of Customs (electronic to mobile governance) relies on the cell phone to transact business.

Investigations and tax mapping

"The biggest commitment of the Arroyo administration is to zealously investigate and prosecute government officials," says Magno. The lead agency for this effort is the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

The commission has investigated 26 cases, recommending nine for punitive action.

The BIR has embarked on a large-scale tax mapping of businesses, and this sweep reveals which firms have failed to pay the correct taxes. The BIR has canceled many anomalous letters of authority used for bribes in exchange for tax audit clearances.

Another initiative is the Voluntary Assessment and Abatement Program (VAAP).

This allows firms to admit their previous under-declarations. The BIR will take action, though, if the admitted under-declarations do not match their records.

"However, some officials relieved by the previous commissioner (Bañez) have supposedly been reinstated to sensitive posts," says Magno.

Other BIR officials have been reported last July 21 for living way beyond their means. Further, 126 BIR personnel are facing sanctions for their irregular deals.

Engaging civil society

The government and civil society groups have forged partnerships to fight corruption. The Lifestyle Check Coalition helps track those living off ill-gotten wealth. Procurement Watch monitors the huge transactions that take place in government procurement. Government Watch monitors the gaps between official contracts and actual spending on public projects, like infrastructure and textbooks.

Reports by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) have resulted in investigations by PAGC.

The government has yet to tap the 1,160 unions covering 270,000 government employees. However, unions like the BIR Employees Association (Birea) are blocking reforms needed to stem corruption. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com.>*

RP engineering education: Expectations vs. performance

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Teresita U. Quirino

IN the executive summary of "Compilation of Statistics on the Performance of Schools in Various Licensure examinations 1994-1998" schools were classified as High-Performing, Low-Performing or Zero-Performing based on their Overall Passing Rate (OPR).

Some engineering schools excelled in some programs and some did not. Schools with low passing rates in five or more licensure boards were listed.

In the PRC condensed version, results of 1994-1998 by Dr. Milagros D. Ibe, it was mentioned that PRC has 42 professional boards. St. Louis University (CAR) has the widest fielded participation examinees in 23 Board Examinations. Next is the University of the Philippines with fielded participation in 19 and the University of Santo Tomas with 18 Board Examinations.

A total of 875 tertiary level institutions took board examinations. Of these, 71 percent are private schools and 29 percent are state educational institutions.

Schools' performance Levels

Performance wise, the colleges and universities were recognized as follows:

- Zero Performing—schools which did not have any examinees who passed during the five-year period under study
- High Performing—schools whose passing average in the board examination is at least one standard deviation higher than the national passing percentage
- Average performing—schools whose passing average are between Low Performing and High Performing
- Low Performing—schools whose passing average in the board examination is at least one standard deviation below the national percentage passing.

High performing institutions

The following schools are categorized as high performing in more than half of the board examinations they participated in:

UP Diliman,	84%
Xavier Univ.	92%
UST	67%
Siliman Univ.	69%
Central Phil Univ.	56%
Mapua	57%
PLM	60%
Ateneo de Davao	64%
St. Louis Univ.	52%

Bro. Andrew in a speech delivered to AIM during PAPSCU conference last February 26, 2003 has more to say about private higher education.

"In the Philippines quality is defined as how the students fare in the Philippine board exams and how fast they can land jobs."

In the Philippines, the trend is to put up more state colleges and universities even if a moratorium has been agreed upon by the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education and Tesda.

Problems with faculty

Based on my 35 years in engineering education, there are some faculty members that deter optimum performance: those who want to teach more than they can handle; those with no industry experience; who do not research, use the Internet, the library; those who lack ethics and class management; who are not dedicated and committed to their work; those who lack the ability to communicate; those who do not administer tests; record tests or follow the grading system; those who do not want to complete their graduate studies; who do not prepare for their lessons; and those who use their authority to deprive students of their honor and their self-esteem.

Performance rating of engineering institutions would depend on:

1. Self-assessment—self-survey, self-knowledge of your institution
2. Peer-assessment with known engineering institutions in one's own region
3. CHED/ TPETA standards compliance
4. Accreditation standards, your level status—Level 1 to Level 3
5. Graduate or alumni performance in PRC—High Performing
6. Graduate or alumni performance in the field of work - Outstanding alumni in business, government, entrepreneurial work
7. Graduate or Alumni Performance outside the country / international level
8. Performance in community outreach programs
9. Status whether a Center of Development or Center of Excellence
10. Status whether a college or a university, number of engineering courses offered plus graduate degrees.

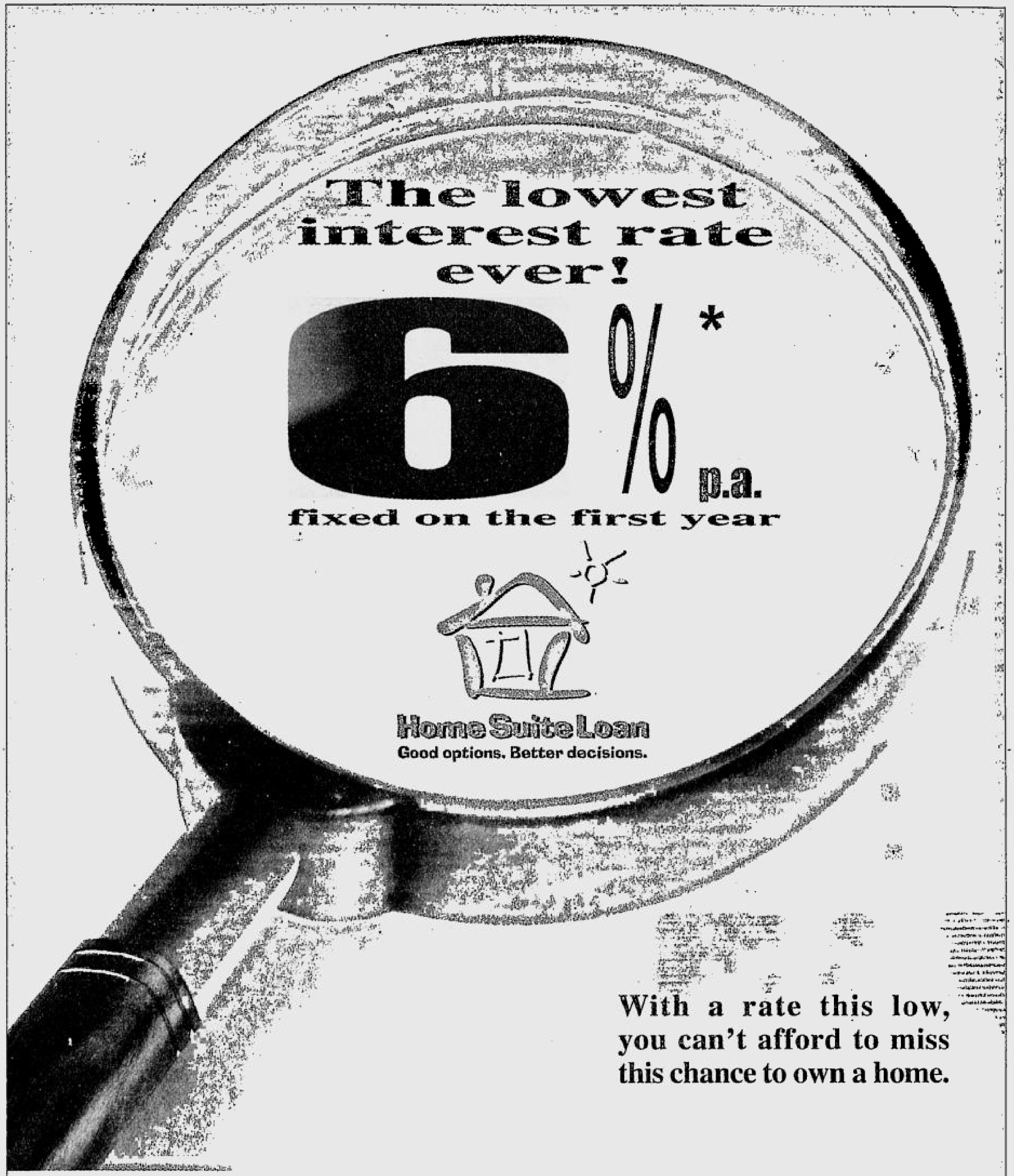
Other Expectations

1. Prestige and popularity of the school
    1.1 Good Administrators
    1.2 Qualified Faculty
    1.3 General Discipline and Order
2. Track -record in the Board Exams (OPA)
3. Physical plant
    3.1 Well structured, painted buildings, entrance and gate
    3.2 Laboratory facilities
    3.3 Air-conditioned rooms, libraries, etc.
    3.4 Clean and good smelling comfort rooms
4. Student services
    4.1 Medical and dental clinic/available services
    4.2 School cafeteria (reasonably priced meals)
    4.3 Guidance services
    4.4 Chapel
5. Peaceful campus with space to move around
6. Other Services
    6.1 Safe and secure campus provided with security guards

Why students enroll in a school

1. One of their parents/relatives is an alumni
2. Best friend / classmate invites them to enroll in the same school
3. Proximity to the school and reasonable fees
4. School presented their programs during guidance week in high school
5. Read attractive ad or brochure about the school.

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and the President of the Technological Institute of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



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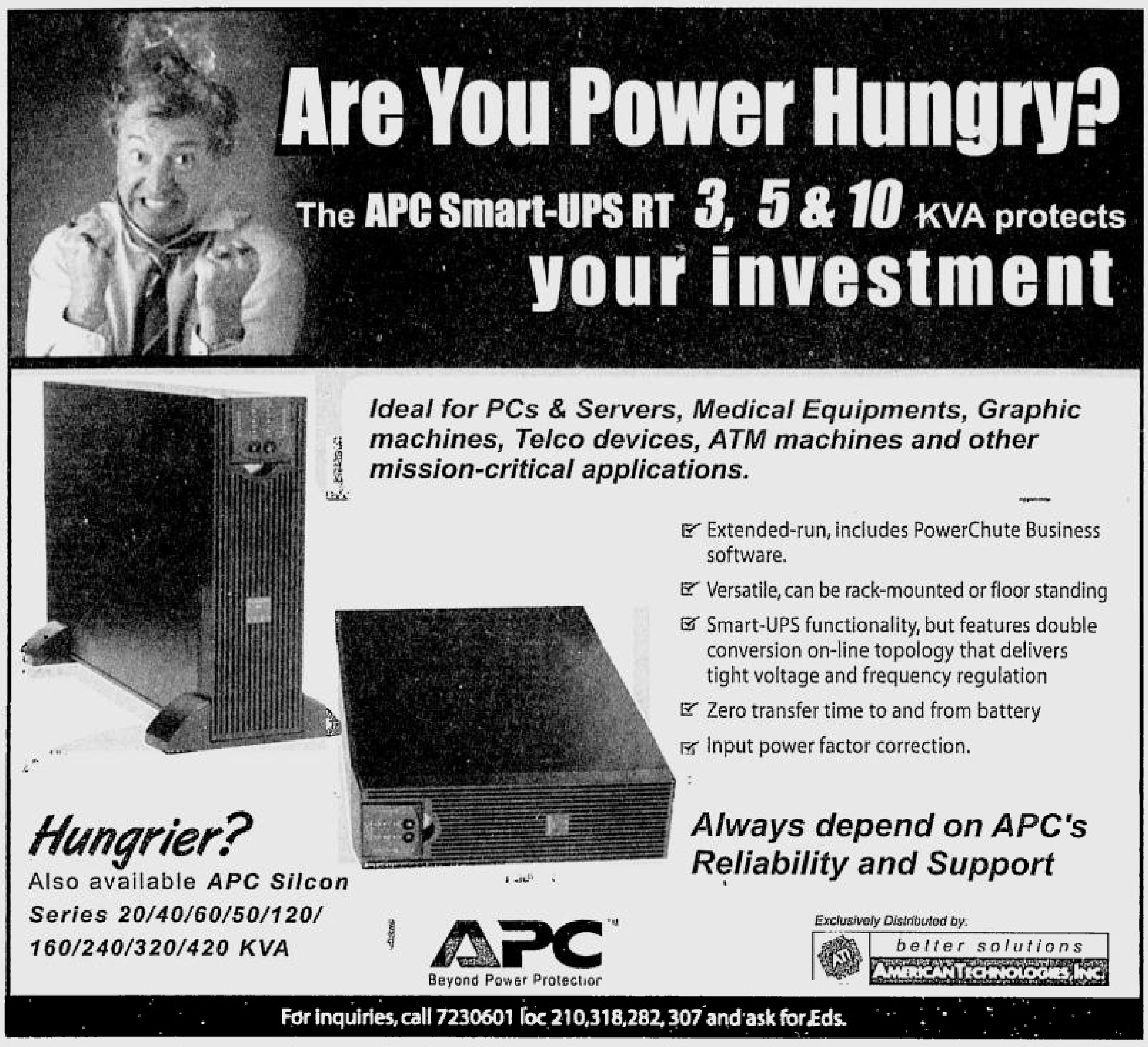
What is being done to attack corruption?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By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

DECADES ago, Singapore was deep in corruption like the Philippines. But resolute leadership, and reforms set in place over the years, fought the cancer till it was routed.

Hong Kong too has instituted reforms which bore fruit in honest government. Cynics who think that corruption can't be defeated here just don't know the power of reforms.

What then are the steps being taken in the Philippines to fight corruption?

Prof. Francisco Magno of the La Salle Institute of Governance presented his review of the policies. His talk was part of CODE NGO's seminar on the state of the nation from civil society's point of view. The following are highlights from his July lecture.

Cut the red tape

One of the major means to fight corruption is to simplify procedures and set time limits for government transactions. That cuts down on signatures and approvals, a source of discretion and hanky panky. It removes a source of bribes for speeding up work. And it leaves fixers less room to maneuver.

The President has stated her commitments to simplify transactions during her first State of the Nation Address. Progress in slashing red tape is seen in the government website, www.gov.ph, the Sona section in particular. The steps needed to get permits have dropped sharply in many agencies.

The state has also rolled out a new accounting system to replace the convoluted practice that has stagnated for decades. The manual is complete, and training sessions have continued since January 2002.

Feedback mechanisms

The state has set up feedback mechanisms so that ordinary people can comment on or complain about the service they get. This helps track state employees who seek bribes or neglect their duties.

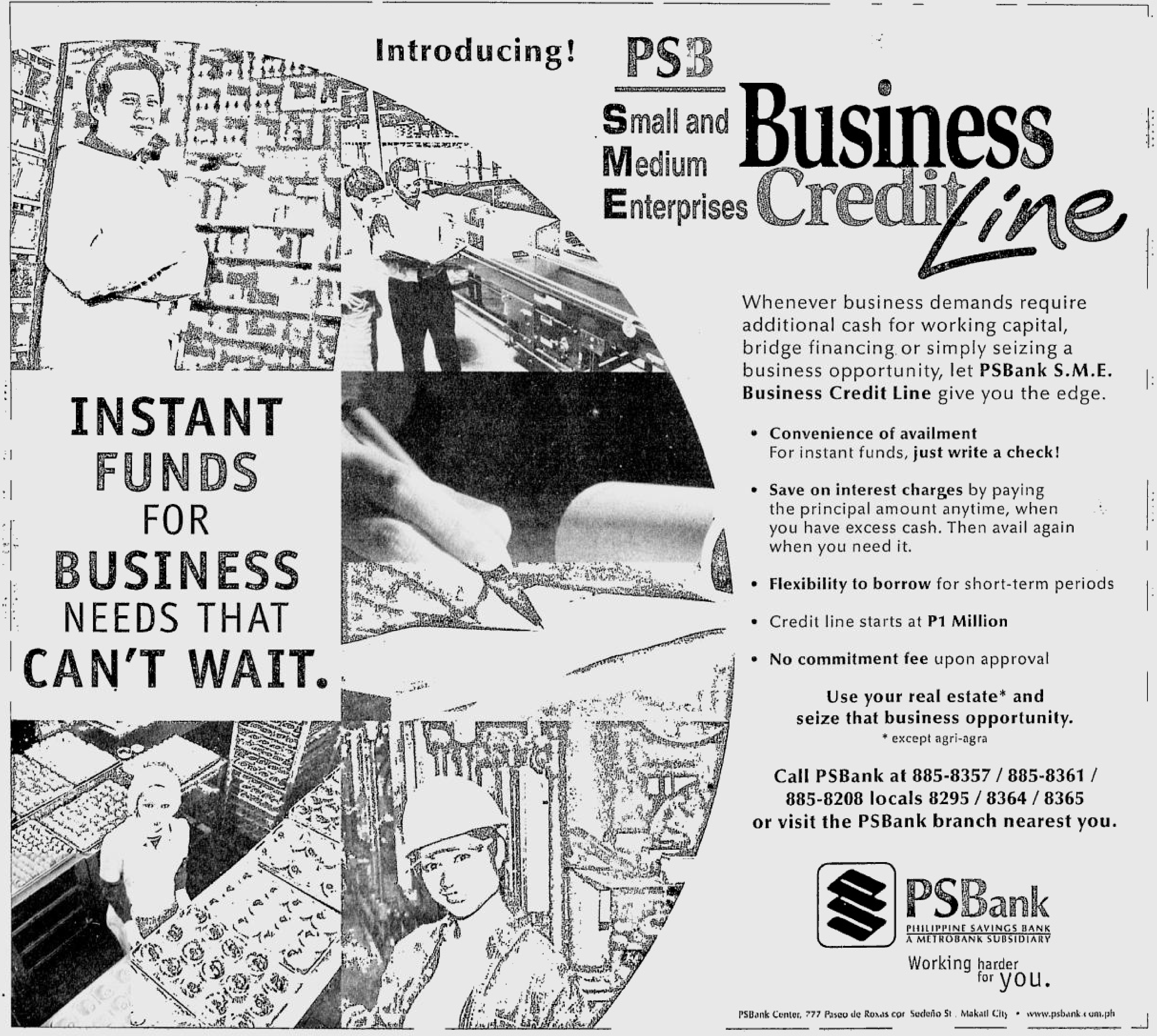
The Civil Service Commission set up the Mamamayan Muna, Hindi Mamaya Na program back in 1994. That year, 98 percent of the reports were complaints. The ratio of complaints had been dropping: in 2001, it was 30 percent, falling to 11 percent in 2002. As of March 2003, the ratio of complaints was 5 percent.

A variant of this was the TEXTCSC service launched in April 2002. Only 16 percent of the messages were complaints. Filipinos would also use the new hotline, 1345, more for inquiries than complaints.

Procurement, technology

The government electronic procurement system has made transactions transparent. Buyers can compare the prices offered by sellers on the website, and thus get the cheapest deals. Almost 3,000 suppliers have downloaded documents, as all government owned and controlled corporations were registered by Decem-

WHAT/ B2-3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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Cops deputized to go after pirates

By Marinel R. Cruz

POLICE on their own can now hunt down and arrest video pirates.

In a memorandum of agreement signed last Friday by Video Regulatory Board Chair Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Local Government Secretary Joey Lina who is also chair of the National Police Commission (Napolcom), and Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane, 114,000 policemen were deputized to go after establishments and individuals engaged in the manufacture and sale of pirated VCDs, DVDs and music CDs.

"*Pinaliit namin ang mundo ng mga pirata*," Revilla said.

"Soon they will have no place to go," he added.

The agreement took effect immediately.

The VRB head explained that before the agreement, members of the VRB's task force unit had to be present before an inspection of videogram establishments could be conducted.

Now, the police can inspect the establishments covered by their police districts even without the presence of members of the VRB task force, although they still need an inspection order from the VRB.

According to the memorandum of agreement, the deputized policemen can inspect establishments within their districts and confiscate pirated VCDs, DVDs and CDs, and arrest their makers or sellers.

The lawmen are required to submit their reports on the confiscation within 48 hours of the inspection.

The VRB said that according to the agreement, policemen who would be caught remiss in their duties in the anti-piracy campaign would be punished through the "Strike 1, 2, 3" rule. If VRB inspectors find illegal video materials in a certain area three times within a month, the police official in charge of the area would be "relieved of his present position."

The agreement was signed a day after the VRB reported confiscating P30 million worth of illegally copied VCDs, DVDs and CDs during raids on a store at the Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan, and on a condominium unit at the Renaissance Tower in Pasig City.

Businessman Colin Manuel is said to be the owner of the Disc Co Tech shop in San Juan and the condo unit in Pasig, according to a memorandum from the VRB task force.

Manuel eluded arrest, it added.

The VRB said its agents seized, among others, 11 CD replicators, five computer processor units, three metal stamps, six personal computer monitors and keyboards, two boxes of pirated VCD and DVD labels and invoices and receipts.

DID YOU KNOW...

Regine Velasquez and former boyfriend **Ariel Rivera**, who almost broke her heart, last Friday recorded a duet of "Tell Me" for Ariel's new album. **Louie Ocampo** rearranged his own composition, which was first recorded by his former girlfriend **Joey Albert**. An eyewitness to the recording session described the duet as "*nakakakilig*," adding that the lyrics seemed to be talking about Regine and Ariel, who is now married to **Gelli de Belen**.

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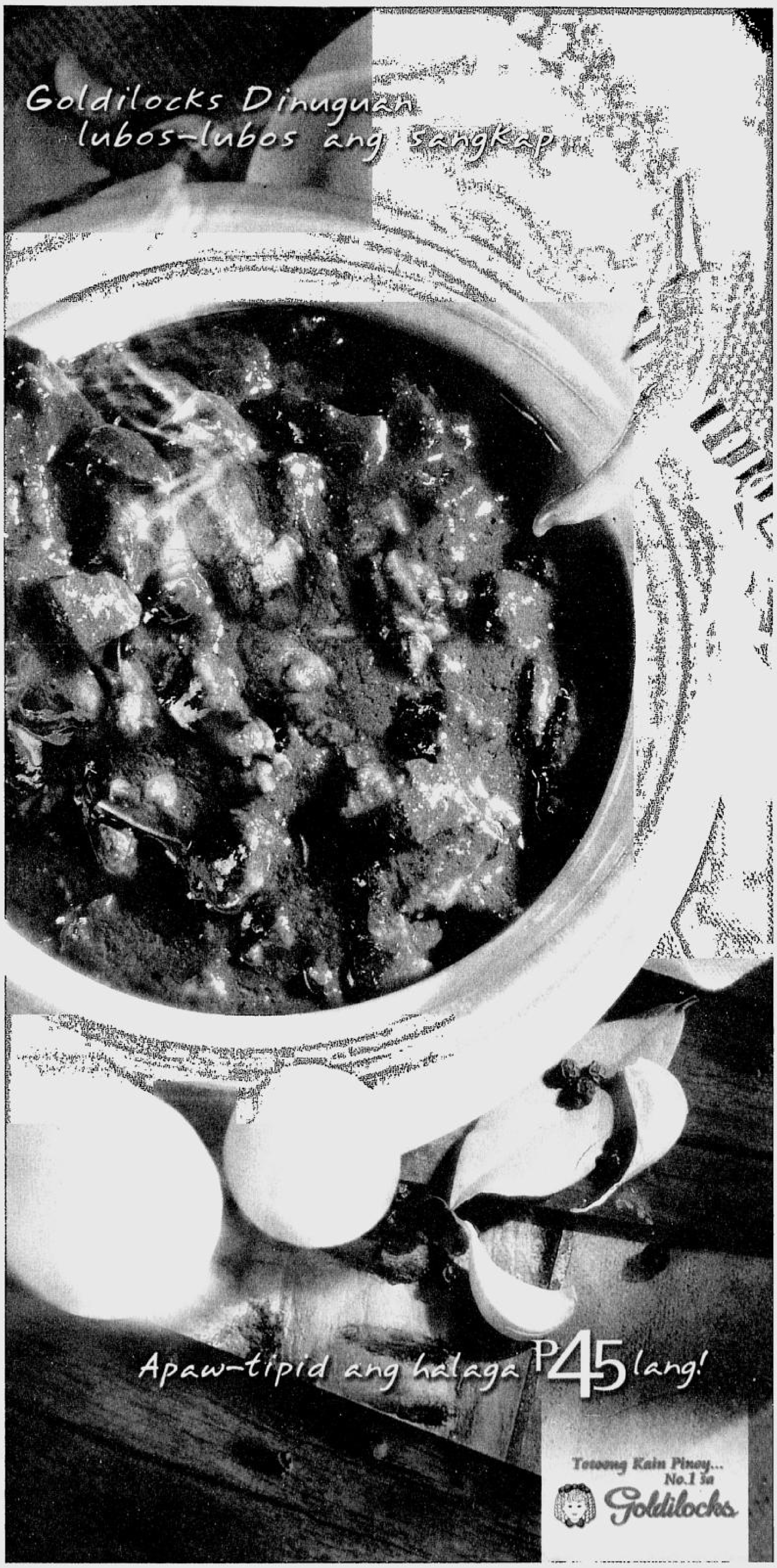

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Andrew Stanton catches the big fish /C4

DANTE BASCO in "The Debut"

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Karen Davila outside 'Insider' /C2

IN THE RED, Davila puts her hand where her feet should be.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Karen Davila outside 'Insider'

OUT OF THE CLOSET

THE MOST important item in her closet, she bought this camera to document her boy's life

By Marinel R. Cruz

JUST thinking about being separated from her one-year-old son gives broadcaster Karen Davila a lot of pain.

So, despite her work load as host of the new late-evening newscast "Insider" and as one of the reporters in the investigative tele-magazine show "Correspondents," both on ABS-CBN, as well as a radio commentator of "Pasada Sais Trenta" on dzMM, Karen makes sure she gets to spend time with son, David Joshua, every day.

Karen says she and her husband, DJ Sta. Ana, who is the network's director for news gathering, decided to rent a two-bedroom condo unit near the network headquarters in Quezon City so they could always check on David.

"If I'm too busy in the morning, I ask my son's *yaya* to dress him up and bring him to dzMM in the afternoon," Karen says. "At least I get to spend time with him before I do 'Insider' at 11 p.m. It gets a little hard only when I have to be out the whole day."

One particularly difficult instance was when Karen had to leave David at his grandmother's house for three weeks when the broadcaster had to go to the United State last year to do a documentary on Filipino teachers in America for "Correspondents" and to cover the Sept. 11 bombing anniversary.

"I called almost everyday to ask how David was doing," Karen recalls. Whenever she missed the boy, she would watch his videos on her digital camera, which she bought right after his birth "to document my son's life."

The award-winning broadcaster says her Sony Handycam is "my most expensive one-time buy."

"I really invested in this for my son," she says as she shows Inquirer Entertainment videos of David's first time on the beach. "This handycam has got to be the most important item in my closet."

Because the closets in their condo unit are too small to hold all their items, Karen left most of her clothes, shoes and bags at her mother's house in Merville, Parañaque.

"What I have here with me are only the things that I use regularly," she explains.

The horizontal bars in her blazer closet have collapsed five times under the heavy load of her almost three dozen blazers.

"I don't know what to do with most of them anymore," Karen says of her blazers, adding that she is planning a major wardrobe change now that she is hosting "Insider."

"I had JC Buendia design new stuff for me, like these Thai silk polos that I could use both as formal and casual wear," she says.

Bags. "Among local bags, I like Carbon a lot. This off-white Carbon is inspired by the Hermes Kelly bags. I use this so often that now I have to have its handle repaired. I put a lot of books, papers in it. I like bags that are big, sturdy and can hold all my stuff.

"This one is from Kate Spade. It was given to me as a gift by a designer friend, Ito Curata. Check him out, he's known to be the designer of Sharon Stone."

Blazers. "I like red, so I have a lot of red blazers, but one of my favorites is this one from DKNY. It has a Chinese collar, the fit is perfect and I've worn it on TV a lot of times already.

"This one is made by my friend JC Buendia, who is the designer of President (Gloria Macapagal-) Arroyo. I can wear it again even after I have not worn it for a long time. The fabric is hard.

"I love this black blazer from Mango because it's really sexy, with a low neckline. It's stretchable. I've had this for a couple of years now."

LITTLE DAVID is the biggest part of her life.

Dresses. "I bought these when I was pregnant. They're adjustable. I've also worn them during all our Independence Day coverages. I have one in fuchsia and one in turquoise.

"I wore this dress at last year's Philippine Tattler Ball. It has a petticoat. Rajo Laurel made it for me in two days. I called him and said, 'Rajo, it's a black and white ball and I have nothing to wear, so please make me something.' This goes with a white Sharon Stone Thai silk polo and a corset."

Jackets. "I only have one denim jacket. It's from Gap and it's been with me forever. I still use it.

"I got this old rose jacket from *ukay-ukay* in Baguio for P30. I was still with 'Extra Extra' then."

Sandals. "This black pair is memorable because my husband gave it to me as a gift when we were still dating. I've kept this out of memory. *Nasira*, so I had to have it repaired.

"This is Gucci. I've had this for more than five years. I've had the soles replaced many times already. But they still look fine. When I really like a pair, I really try to keep them for as long as I can.

"I'm not an impulsive buyer. There are times when I would spend on things that I really like even when they're expensive. But most of the time, I'm not a big spender. I believe people have to own a good, red pair, like this one from Nine West."

Slippers. "I got this pair from Myx for P400. I love the beadwork. I pair it with jeans.

"I like looking for bargains when I go abroad, like these slip-ons from Anne Klein. I got these in New York for $10. That means they're only worth P500. I look for good brands that are cheap."

Rubber shoes. "These Velcro rubber shoes make me feel younger, act younger."

Boots. "I've had my Caterpillar boots since I was in GMA 7. I think that's almost eight years. Look how *laspag* this pair is. I've used it in all my coverages in Mindanao and when I went to Cambodia in 2001 for 'Correspondents.' We passed the flooded streets of Cambodia to talk with the brother of the dictator Pol Pot."

Jeans. "I got these beaded capri pants at Anonymous for P700. It's very difficult to find jeans like these."

Blouse. "I like this shirt from Mango because it's a take on a man's shirt. It's like a tuxedo. I really like the cuffs. I try to look for items that are nice and unique because I can't afford to have so many clothes and I don't have enough closet space."

Long-sleeved shirt. "I wore this on the first day of 'Insider' and so many people called and texted the office asking why I was showing cleavage. Wow! I didn't know one blouse could actually make news."

Books. "I have all the PCIJ (Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism) books. I'm such a fan of PCIJ that I go to their office to ask them what their latest books or tapes are.

"I bought these 'Larry King Live' books in a book sale. I also own a Colin Powell book, which he autographed. I just don't have it with me right now."

Trophy. "I got this best medical report award in 1999 from CNN News Network. I did a medi-

KAREN/ C3

When she misses her 2-year-old son, she watches his videos on her digital camera, which she bought to focus on his growing up

LOOKING UP investigative journalism topics, she likes to read PCIJ books.

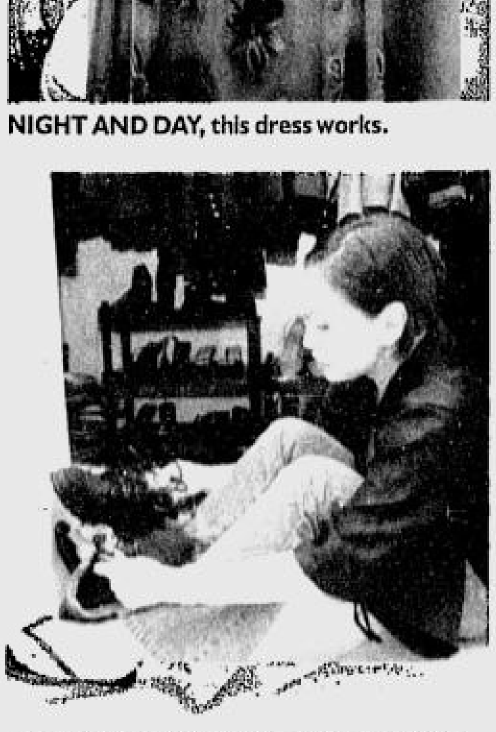
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

HIGHLY PRIZED is the CNN trophy she received from Ted Turner.

BAUBLES, BANGLES and beads from several sources.

A REAL FAKE, this earring is a conversation piece.

NIGHT AND DAY, this dress works.


BATTLE READY, these boots have been to war zones.

Mother Lily, 'Nay Lolit, et. al.

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

Conclusion

AS bigness goes, **Lolit Solis**, manager of **Lorna Tolentino**, is bigger than **Arnold Vegafria**, manager of **Dina Bonnevie.**

Lolit is a talk-show host at one of the two biggest networks in the land; Arnold, while well-liked, is known mainly in small circles. Of course, Arnold now belongs to Mother Lily's Tuesday Club, which is a cozy little group that eats and eats while trading secrets and gossip at Mother's Greenhills home every Tuesday night.

But Mother and Lolit are tighter.

They go back a long way, to 1976, on only Regal Films' third film, when the unknown **Lily Yu Monteverde** dressed like an expensive matron, thick spray net on high hairdo, as Lolit tells so hilariously. Moreover, when the filmfest scam was hot, and Lolit was a social outcast with jeers and jail terms hanging over her head every day, it was Mother, then the country's most powerful movie producer, who took her to public concerts and sat with her in the front row in full view of everyone.

Even the numbers back up Lolit.

She has 25 years in show business; Arnold, 13. Lolit's clients count at least 17, a number of them megabuck earners: **Christopher de Leon, Bong Revilla, Rudy Fernandez, Rosanna Roces.** Arnold's clients reach 30, none of them megabuck names: **Monsour del Rosario, Gary Estrada, Maritoni Fernandez, Joey Albert, Jenine Desiderio.**

Arnold admits Lolit is bigger.

Lolit can frighten Mother Lily more.

Sad thing is, Lolit did.

Flexing her muscle, she gave the ultimatum: No LT, No Christopher. A frightening scenario which expanded with the help, it is said, of old friend **Dolor Guevarra**, manager of **Susan Roces**, who let drop: No Christopher, No Susan. Until the full threat became: No Susan, No Kris.

Lorna Tolentino got the role.

Well, **Gabby Concepcion** got the award, too. And even kept it for several days.

This time, when the film shows, and LT shines as I expect she will, everyone would have forgotten this show of arrogance from her camp. And when she goes up the stage to accept an award, which is very likely deserved, the end would have erased all memory of the means.

Everybody forgives a winner.

Yet the whole thing leaves me asking: Is LT so small a star she needs a Christopher as bait? What next? No LT, No Bong? Will people, dismayed by her getting her manager to do the dirty work, ever concede now, that where body of work is considered, Lorna Tolentino is in fact notches higher than Dina Bonnevie?

She still might have won fair.

Now she'll never know.

As for Mother Lily: Whatever possessed her to offer one role to two stars?

She's not crazy, she can't use that excuse. Sure, she got tremendous free publicity, but she of all people must've seen it was getting way too ugly, and foreboding ill wind for her film, or why else has she gagged her people now?

Yes, I still say show biz is a fun place to be.

I think of all that juice—from a young director out to prove himself with the epic project, a writer whose characters the stars are killing each other for, a producer whose thoughts go more often now to her legacy to film—and I say, yes, show biz is a good place to be.

Only, sometimes, it's a place that forgets that people on the outside looking in cannot be as indulgent of the arrogance and pride jumping loose within. That for as long as regular folk looking at bona fide celebrity see this kind of ugliness, they are going to withhold their respect.

Which means, everyone in show biz will just have to keep being their inconsequential subject at dinner, good for a few laughs.

In truth, there's not much that's laughable about this mess. You hear of these little camps that worked to defeat Dina because they didn't like her, and it's not funny.

"She talks too much," they say.

She does, too, and can learn more as actress, if not as person, if she listened more.

But is that reason to bury her?

Dina came in simply wanting to be part of an impressive project, had no mind to compete with anybody, and went away leaving no words of vengeance or hate.

LT will have to beat that.

Mother will have to live with it.

And Lolit—dear, dear Lolit—had just better go slow with the gods once more.

(Send feedback to joann.maglipon@summitmedia.com.ph)

> Dina wanted to be part of an impressive project, and went away leaving no words of vengeance or hate. LT will have to beat that.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

WHAT could have been the cast of "Mano Po 2," with Ms D (front, left) and LT (right)

'City of God' maker in Makati City fest

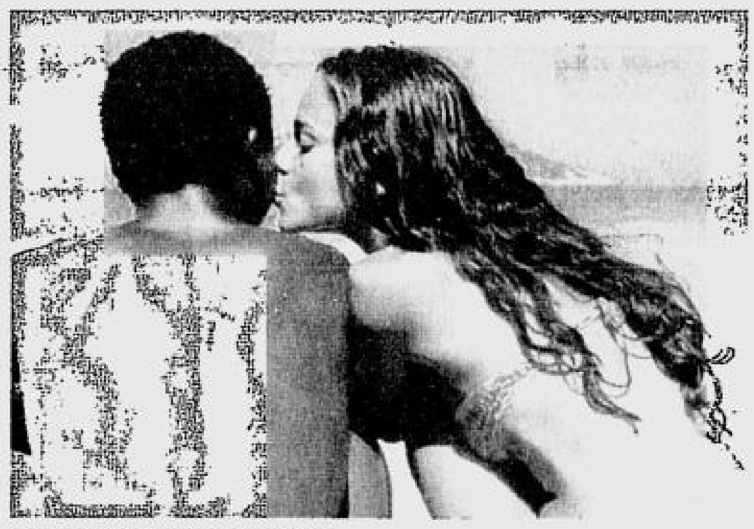
FERNANDO Meirelles, award-winning Brazilian director of "City of God," is gracing the ongoing 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival.

"City of God" will have a special screening tomorrow, Aug. 19, at 4 p.m. at Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2, to be followed by a Q & A session with Meirelles at 6:30 p.m.

At the 11 p.m. screening also tomorrow, Meirelles will introduce "City of God" himself.

"City of God," Meirelles' first feature film, was also the opening film and is competing for the top prizes in the Makati Cinemanila film competition. It was Brazil's official entry to the 75th Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film and was nominated for a Golden Globe. It was also an official selection at the Cannes International Film Festival 2002.

The Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival runs until Aug. 24.



"CITY OF GOD," by Mereilles

Karen Davila inside...

From page C2

cal report on compressor divers for the 'Probe Team.' I received this in Atlanta, Georgia, from Ted Turner. *Mabasag na lahat, wag lang ito!*"

Accesories. "I got these cross necklaces from Apo Lejano. I'm so addicted to her crosses.

"I bought these accessories on the side streets of New York last year, from a black woman. These are some of my New York street finds. They're very cheap.

"This bracelet was given to me by Ito Curata. I always get asked where I got this.

"I bought these earrings at Glorietta. They are fake and I think they come from Korea."

Nightdress. "This has been with me for 10 years, or even longer. This is my nightie, which doubles as a gown. *Pantulog ito*, but when I put a *maong* jacket over it, it becomes a dress. When I'm in Boracay, it becomes a gimmick dress. But yeah, this is a nightie."

Paintings. "I always make it a point to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art whenever I go to New York. This is my favorite, a painting of Joan of Arc. This is actually a mural done by Jules Bastien Lepage in the 1800s. It shows Joan right after she lost the war. She looks really sad. There are angels beside her. The painting looks very real. She is looking up to heaven for faith and answers.

"This painting was a wedding present from one of our best friends, Manila Councilor Kim Atienza. This is actually a very sexual painting. It's about a woman having this certain idea of a man. It's very colorful. Chati Coronel painted it. She's very popular among art lovers already."

ANG MGA BAGO MONG KAPAMILYA
SIMULA MAMAYANG HAPON

Por ti
For you

Si Maria. Kaakit-akit ngunit palaban.
Tunghayan ang kwento ng kanyang kabiguan,
tagumpay at pag-ibig.

pagkatapos ng
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telenovela na
para sa 'yo lamang.

DRAMATHON sa hapon

- POR TI (For You)
- ALTAGRACIA
- GATA SALVAJE
- PALOMA

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Anime na hitik
sa action!

RAVE

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ni Haru, ang Anime Hero
na tagapagmana ng maalamat na
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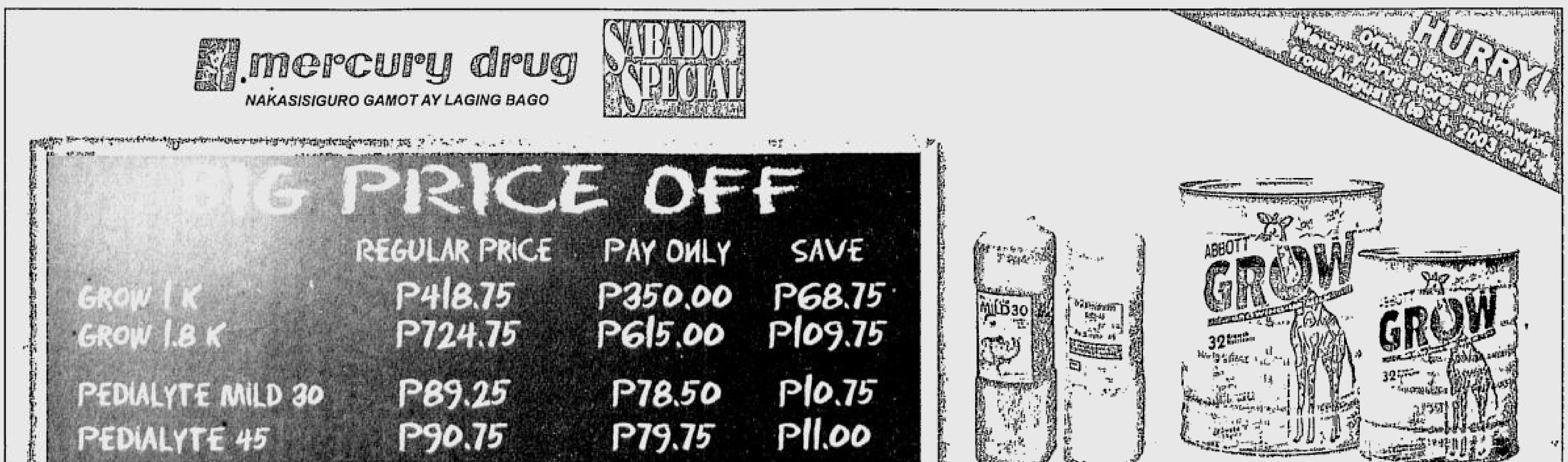

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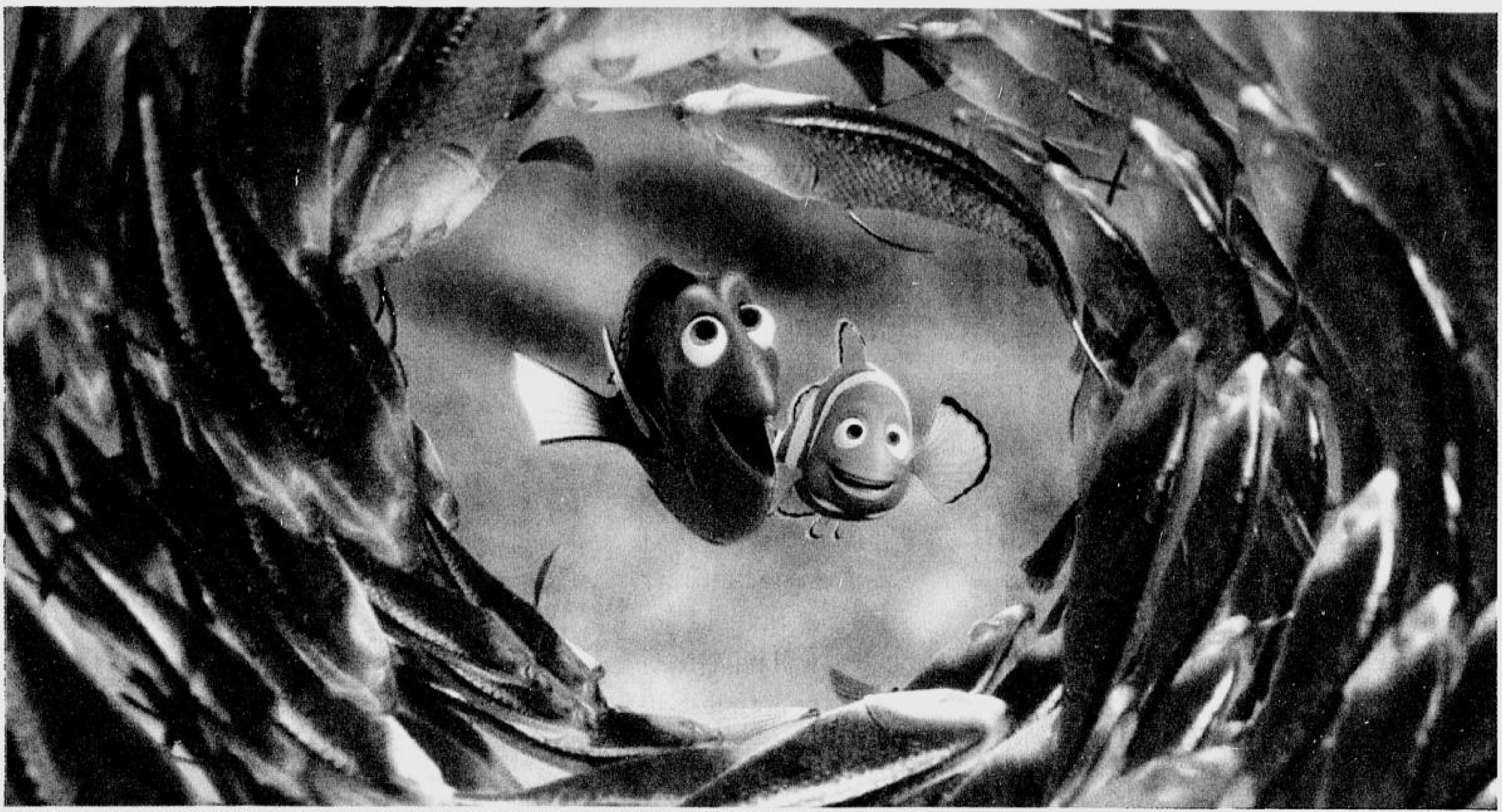


THE FISHY tale "Finding Nemo" is the year's biggest catch and is so far the highest grossing film of 2003 with $312 million in earnings.

Andrew Stanton catches the big fish

By Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Andrew who?

That's Andrew Stanton, the director of the highest-grossing animated film ever, but you may have never heard of him.

Stanton also wrote the story of "Finding Nemo," which not only dislodged "The Lion King" as the all-time biggest earning animated film but also trumped all the much-anticipated sequels this year, starting with "The Matrix Reloaded."

With over $312 million in earnings, Stanton's fishy tale is this year's surprise biggest catch, and is so far the highest-grossing film of 2003. Not bad at all, especially considering one more remarkable thing: This is Stanton's directorial debut.

"Finding Nemo," which Time magazine's Richard Corliss describes as "gorgeous," had been bubbling in Stanton's mind since 1992. So by the time he pitched his story, of a single father fish looking for his lost son, to Pixar Animation Studios' John Lasseter and later to the key animation staff, it was a complete movie in Stanton's brain.

Stanton is part of a writing team that made "Toy Story," the first and only animated film to get an Oscar for best screenplay written directly for the screen.

INQUIRER Entertainment was told by "Finding Nemo" supervising technical director Oren Jacob and production designer Ralph Eggleston that Stanton's pitch was "absolutely transfixing." Oren added, "I'm willing to pay just to watch Andrew do his pitch again."

So when it was INQUIRER Entertainment's turn to interview Stanton, we asked him to give us a sample of the pitch that several Pixar geniuses have told and raved to us about earlier in this hotel interview.

Movie in his head

"Unfortunately, it's an hour's pitch," said Stanton, boyish and blessed with a dazzling smile. "I don't know if I could give you a little snippet of what it is."

"It's like telling someone about a great movie," chimed co-director Unkrich, who sat beside Stanton.

Egged on by Unkrich's statement, Stanton elaborated, "To me, that was the key. If you saw a movie that you loved and you ran back to tell someone about it, you suddenly become the best storyteller in the world. It's because you loved what you just saw. So I said, okay, what I'm going to do then is think of a story and I won't tell anybody until I feel that I've seen it already.

"It took years for the story in my mind to get to that level. We were busy with 'Toy Story,' 'A Bug's Life,' 'Toy Story 2' and 'Monsters Inc.' and I just couldn't get to that level. But by the time I was telling my story to John (Lasseter), it was this movie in my head that I could run around in the room and tell you the scenes. I do the voices. It's a bit of a one-man show."

"It really feels like you've seen a movie," said Unkrich. "A lot of joy in making this movie was that we were slowly seeing this thing come into being that Andrew had described years earlier. We always felt like we've seen the film after he did the pitch. It was really like a game watching the puzzle pieces slowly put into place."

INQUIRER spoke to Stanton a few days before "Finding Nemo" opened in the US. Giddy with anticipation about his film's reception (but the thought that it would dethrone "The Lion King" as the animated film box-office champ surely did not even cross his mind), he was a man of dizzying, conflicting emotions.

Freedom at Pixar

"It's weird," he said. "I feel like I've been shot out of a whale. It's been nerve-wracking. It's so personal. You're worried. You just don't know what you have. You worry that maybe it's something that not everybody wants to see as much as you do. Or they may not even get it.

"But the last thing we do is worry about what other people would think. The thing that's guided us in all our movies is, we stay isolated up in San Francisco. I'm lucky that I'm with a group of guys like Lee (Unkrich) and John. We all have the same taste and sensibilities. We just make the movies that we want to see. If we still like seeing a film after four years of working on it, then we trust that we've done something okay. It's really nice to see that we affect people the way that I wanted to affect people."

On working at Pixar, where Stanton worked in various crucial creative capacities on all four of the studio's previous successful films, he declared, "We enjoy a magnitude of freedom that we will never get anywhere else. Something that makes Pixar unique—and I'm lucky to be part of a studio that is making history in animated films—is that outside of Disney, there's no other studio that's run by artists. There are no middlemen. We don't have any suits."

But there must be some conflicts between the "non-suits," like between him and Unkrich? "There has only been one time when we had a disagreement on one shot," Stanton said with a smile. "Lee won."

"There was no shouting match," he stressed, still smiling. "Seriously. If Pixar were that kind of place, I don't think any one of us would want to work there. We've been working together a long time. It's like we're married."

"I'm the only one in the company who can tell Andrew his ideas are bad," Unkrich interjected to laughter in the hotel room. "We all trust each other. We do it all to each other and it makes the movies better. You have to have that trust."

Memory of the ocean

"Finding Nemo" is winning raves for its underwater visuals. "The opening scene alone," said one critic, "focusing on a coral, is breathtaking." But Stanton and his team of artists did not aim for an ultra-realistic illustration of the world underneath us.

Unkrich explained, "Early on, Andrew picked out a bunch of live action shots under and above water. He laid down the groundwork. He said, let's see if we can develop the technology to kind of re-create these shots. Our technical team lead by Oren (Jacob) did an amazing job. So amazing that we literally couldn't tell the difference between the CG (computer-generated) shots and the original shots. We thought, this is too much, this is too realistic. We're going to have this somewhat caricatured cartoon-y fish amidst a very realistic background.

"So we started to think of how to stylize the ocean. We did that by creating an ocean which is almost like your memory of the ocean, rather than creating what's exactly down there.

"We created a very realistic . . ." Lee quickly corrected himself, saying instead, "a very detailed, textured, I should say, memory of the ocean. The guiding principle was to simplify. If you go out there and look at real coral reefs, there's no order to them whatsoever. They're so random and colorful that we just narrowed down the color palette and the number of variations of coral reefs and things down there. We did that just so that we still have this feeling of all this lush beauty. It feels very random and organic.

"It's almost like God had an extra day to clean up what he had done."

This last line stayed with me throughout the rest of the afternoon.

Juvenile humor

Of course, the striking look is matched by an engaging storyline and a set of memorable characters. Part of a Pixar film's appeal is that it can be appreciated by adults and children on different levels. There are always lines thrown in for the grown-ups to titter over.

One sample in "Finding Nemo" is an are-you-my-conscience? line mouthed during a trek through a deep, dark part of the ocean. A surprise quip like that seemed like an ad lib line, a hilarious gem that just sprang from someone's lips during a dubbing session, but Stanton said, "That was in the script. We're never intentionally targeting kids. Some of our sense of humor is very juvenile."

All ages lap up the Darla character, the dentist's niece. Adults break into a knowing smile, if not a snicker or a flat-out laugh, when they recognize this little girl from hell (sinisterly making her entrance to the theme from "Psycho") as their mean little cousin from childhood or the brat they saw throwing a tantrum at the grocery today.

"We didn't want Darla to be evil but we wanted her to be evil for the characters," Stanton, who is married and has two kids, said with a laugh. "We named her after one of the producers. She and I have a nasty history of doing practical jokes to each other so this is the best payback practical joke that I could ever do."

Finding Ellen

He hit the pot when he cast Ellen DeGeneres in the voice of the memory-challenged Dory. We can imagine a future film with this appealing blue tang in the lead role.

"That was really a serendipitous thing," he agreed. "Typically, I never break the taboo of writing for specific actors because if you don't get them, you've painted yourself in a corner. What are you going to do? But when I was developing the story, I knew I wanted some fish to guide the father through the ocean. I had sort of a typical male blindness. I thought it should be some guy character.

"One night at home, years ago, Ellen's TV show was on in the other room when I heard her change the subject five times in one sentence. I stopped, listened, and thought, that's great. That would be a great quality for this character with a short-term memory and I felt, why not Ellen DeGeneres, why not make it a female character? I couldn't get Ellen off my head.

"I really was screwed if I didn't get her. I sent her the script and called her. My first line to her was, 'Hello, I'm Andrew and I'm up the creek if you don't take this role' and she said, 'Well, then I better take it,' and that was it."

Crush the turtle

Stanton also made a casting coup by hiring Eric Bana as the voice of Anchor, a hammerhead shark, before the actor was cast as "The Hulk." "I wanted him way before," Stanton volunteered. "I was a big fan of 'Chopper' (Bana's acclaimed Australian feature film). I had also seen episodes of his TV comedy show in Australia. He's a comedian and does impersonations. I pursued him and he happened to be available. So I thought it was kind of a nice little coup to get him there.

"I wanted authentic Australian voice for every single Australian character in the movie (the film is mostly set in the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Harbor)."

As if directing and writing the most acclaimed animated film this year weren't enough, Stanton does a nice turn as the voice of Crush, a laid-back, surfer dude of a turtle.

"We always do some scratch (temporary vocal track)," he explained. "And I happen to be the scratch for the turtle. For years, we couldn't find an actor that we liked for the turtle. We ran out of time and we had to show the movie at our first preview screening. So all right, we decided, we'll just leave my voice in."

Unkrich interrupted: "So he got the job."

Stanton said, "I called myself, gave myself the job, thought about it and accepted it."

Sea horse jokes

Two other Pixar artists lend their voice acting talents: story man Joe Ranft (as Jacques), who was most memorable as Heimlich the Caterpillar in "A Bug's Life," and screenwriter Bob Peterson (Mr. Ray). Rounding out the impressive cast of voice actors are Willem Dafoe (Gill), Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush, nine-year-old Alexander Gould (Nemo) and, in another inspired bit of casting, Barry Humphries, who is famous for his hilarious Dame Edna character, in the uber-macho voice of Bruce, a Great White Shark.

A reporter decided to channel Barbara Walters and asked, "If you were a fish, what would you be?"

"I would never be a dolphin," Stanton replied quickly, steadily (maybe Walters has already asked him this question).

"I think our wives would want us to be sea horses. In sea horses, the males are the ones who get pregnant. We did try for a while to have a pregnant sea horse father gag in the movie. Like a sea horse father is always having contractions, but it didn't work."

Another reporter mentioned the "O" word (Oscar award, not Oprah) for "Finding Nemo" and its creators.

"There's a lot of great people who never got an Oscar," Stanton answered. "I don't want to jinx anything. Who knows?"

> 'I would never be a dolphin,' Stanton said. 'I think our wives would want us to be sea horses. In sea horses, the males are the ones who get pregnant.'

Uniquely diverse combination of achievements

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE remember how **Gary Valenciano** started his performing career, 20 years ago: He was reed-thin then, all ears and Adam's apple, and moved with that intensity, like he was on a short fuse.

The image was apt, because when the young Gary sang and danced, he exploded. Yes, the **Michael Jackson** derivation was there, but there was more to him than just Michael's Moonwalk transposed to Moonwalk Subdivision. He had his own kind of talent, and he made sure that the world knew it.

In those early days, we were directing a magazine show for television, and we did a feature on a beauty queen who turned out to be Gary's relative. That's when we met Gary and his sister **Gina**, and we liked them right off. They were such good and friendly people, and we admired their folks for bringing them up so well.

Soon, we got to know their parents themselves. Their mother, **Grimi**, was a beautiful and talented stage actress whom we saw performing in a Spanish play, and we thought the world of her performance.

As for Mr. Valenciano, we met him when he guested on "Two for the Road" and talked about his photography. He also shared then little-known details about Gary's diabetes, which has afflicted his son ever since he was a child.

We remember thinking then that, if this young man could hold such a potentially dangerous illness at bay and not let it affect or limit his love for performing, then he could do practically anything!

In the past two decades, Gary practically has.

Aside from singing, dancing, composing and other activities related to his music, Gary has devoted his life to helping others get closer to God, involves himself in socio-civic advocacies, is a spokesman for Unicef Philippines, and a TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) awardee. No one else in the biz can match his uniquely diverse combination of achievements.

An interesting sidelight is his unusually friendly relationship with his main rival in the business, **Martin Nievera**. They're supposed to be competing to be No. 1, but they're also the best of pals, supporting each other whenever there's a need to, and even impersonating one another's singing styles with satirical precision.

This month, Gary caps his two decades of involvement in show business with a celebratory series of shows at Music Museum. His fans will be treated to a medley of dance songs and ballads from the '60s, funky '70s, new wave '80s, and the techno-rave 2K. A compilation number to look forward to is what Gary terms his medley of "my should-have-been hits"—choice cuts that he wishes he wrote or sang.

So, how's life shaping up for Gary V at this "life begins anew" stage of his personal life and professional development as a music artist? He's still working hard to expand his stage to include performing and recording abroad.

He's trying out new musical approaches to keep his act fresh and connected to the youth and the ever-young. And his service to God and man adds even greater meaning and psychic satisfaction to his life and work.

For our part, we hope that Gary gives acting on TV and the movies another go, but without the artificial limitations and inhibitions that made his past attempts not as successful as they should have been.

Thanks, Gary, for the memories—and for achievements yet to come.

Feedback

A VIEWER urges TV people to think before they speak. Recent errors she's noticed on television include: "furnitures," "three agencies is," "friend was operated," and "a lot of soldiers is."

If on-camera talents must speak in English, they should do so clearly and correctly, for good communication's sake. Also, some people are listening who may think that the TV talents are speaking the right way, and imitate their mistakes.

Gareth Gates sings Elvis

UK singing sensation Gareth Gates pays tribute to Elvis Presley with his latest single, "Suspicious Minds." The release of Presley's classic was timed for the rock legend's death anniversary this month.

"Suspicious Minds" is included in Gates' debut album, "What My Heart Wants to Say," distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas.

Gates was the runner-up of UK's "Pop Idol," the European version of "American Idol." Gates, other Pop Idols Will young and Darius, and "American Idol" winner Kelly Clarkson are this month's MTV Hotseat Idols.

Vote for Gates as Pop Idol via the MTV Asia website (www.mtvasia.com) for a chance to win one of five signed Gareth packages. Promo runs until Aug. 31.

Lani, Louie and MPO at PICC

MISALUCHA

LANI Misalucha performs again on Sept. 5 and 6 at the PICC Plenary Hall, CCP Complex.

The concert, "Lani Misalucha in Symphony," marks firsts for the diva, including her long-cherished wish to perform with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO), this time under the stewardship of composer-arranger-keyboardist Louie Ocampo.

Matching the grandeur of the music are equally stunning visuals, highlighted by Lani's glam look throughout the show.

Imagine Marilyn Monroe or a young and coy Streisand.

Lani promises to swing through a gamut of diverse styles including jazz, techno, classical and even rock, in the PICC show.

"One of my more modern influences, Sarah Brightman, brilliantly employed this techno-pop feel and sound in her latest album," says Lani, "and I'm looking forward to singing some of my favorites from that album.

"There will also be these breezy, light-hearted moments when I get into a more intimate acoustic setting. I'm glad this type of folksy, country style is becoming popular again. This is also the kind of music I grew up with."

Tickets to "Lani Misalucha in Symphony" are available at Wilbros Entertainment (374-2222 and 374-9999) and all major National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets (891-5610).

THEY'RE BACK! (Clockwise, from left) Rey Valera, Marco Sison, Nonoy Zuñiga, Hajji Alejandro and Rico J. Puno

'Just Once' twice more

SHOW TIME

"GREATEST Hits Just Once," the Araneta Coliseum concert featuring Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera, Nonoy Zuñiga and Marco Sison, was a treat for memory-lane trippers.

Nostalgia filled the Big Dome that night of Aug. 2 as the five men served it up nonstop. The five were obviously enjoying themselves immensely.

Hajji to Rico: "*Naaalala mo pa ba kung paano mo napupuno itong* Araneta Coliseum *noong araw?*"

Rey: "*Oo nga, pare, kayang-kaya mong punuin itong* Araneta noon."

Hajji: "*Noon 'yun, pare.*"

Nonoy and Marco: "*Tama, pare, wala ka na ngayon.*"

Hajji: "*Ngayon, kailangan kasama mo kami.*"

Rey: "*Oo nga, pare, ginamit mo pa kami.*"

The audience loved it. It's been almost four decades, but these guys haven't lost their touch. It is the music that holds them together. It is also their bond with the thousands that filled Araneta.

Marco closed his portion with a duet with his teenage son whom he introduced as his "younger brother."

Hajji trotted out daughter Rachel. Rico contributed to the family hour by sharing a song with his daughter Tosca.

Nonoy sang a song not with a daughter but with Sarah Geronimo, Viva Records' newest find and winner of Viva's Search for a Star contest last year.

Rey had no offspring to perform with, but he did the others one better. He sang "Sa Aking Panahon," his composition that he never recorded.

The Viva Hot Babes and the VIP Dancers of Maribeth Bichara performed in eye-popping costumes by Frederick Peralta.

Viva Concerts, which didn't expect the show to be that big, is taking it on the road. "Greatest Hits Just Once" will be in Cebu on Sept. 12 and again at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 26.

Marco Sison sings at Classmate, too

MARCO Sison, still basking in the success of his Araneta Coliseum concert last Aug. 2 with four other balladeers *(Related story above)*, is featured in "Marco Sings his Greatest Hits," an intimate show on Aug. 20 at the popular Classmate KTV and entertainment center in Quezon City.

Marco, the voice behind such hits as "My Love Will See You Through" and "Always," will be performing in Classmate's 200-seat entertainment hall, which is equipped with the Martin audiovisual system from the UK.

While enjoying Marco's music, guests may also have their fill of Classmate's special food and drinks for August.

For inquiries about the Marco Sison show at Classmate, call 373-1080. Classmate is along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

Pinoy and proud of it

From page C8

San Diego Asian Film Festivals.

Proud Pinoys

"The United States theatrical market is the most difficult theatrical market in the world, bar none," says the director. "We did very well in all the cities we came out in."

He also talks about his motivation. "To this day," he says, "it really is about my kids, and also young Filipinos and Filipino-Americans. I grew up in Orange County, and my parents and most of my friends' parents, they just assumed that their kids should know automatically that we're Filipinos and should be proud of it. We never heard how beautiful Filipino culture is, how we should be proud as Filipinos.

"Unfortunately, when you grow up in America, you're confronted with racism everyday, nobody on television looks like you, and you have no role models to look up to whatsoever. It's not so simple to take pride in being a Filipino-American. And I didn't, either, until I got to college.

"And for me, it was the issue of making sure that my kids didn't have to go through what I went through growing up. My kids didn't have to feel the shame that they didn't look like white people and that they were a minority in this great country."

People of color

Cajayon admits that there have been offers from big Hollywood studios, but he has declined them.

"The movies I want to make have people of color in the lead roles," he says. "Essentially, I don't want to make movies about white people, it's as simple as that. Why would I, as a socially conscious man of color, make the same drivel that everybody else makes?"

"There are so many stories within the Filipino-American experience, the Filipino experience, the Asian experience. A lot of people are very interested in what the next film is going to be but it'll just be as difficult to make, at least for me, simply because I have a commitment to make sure our stories get told."

"The Debut" debuts in Philippine theaters on Aug. 13.

Samsung products featured in 'www.xxx.com'

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines is supporting the first digital Filipino movie, "www.xxx.com" from Maverick Films.

In the Tikoy Aguiluz opus, moviegoers will see the latest Samsung products, like the Samsung home theater system, cellular phones, SyncMaster flat monitors and other Samsung home appliances.

The public may also view the movie trailer on the state-of-the-art Samsung home theater systems installed at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong and at SM North Edsa.

Maverick Films is giving away Samsung cellular phone SGH-T500 in its radio promo on *Kuya* Mar De Guzman's "Showbiz Power."

The movie stars Juliana Palermo, Gary Estrada, Carlo Maceda and Angelu de Leon.

"www.xxx.com" opens on Aug. 27.

It's 'Gini' Cruz Santos

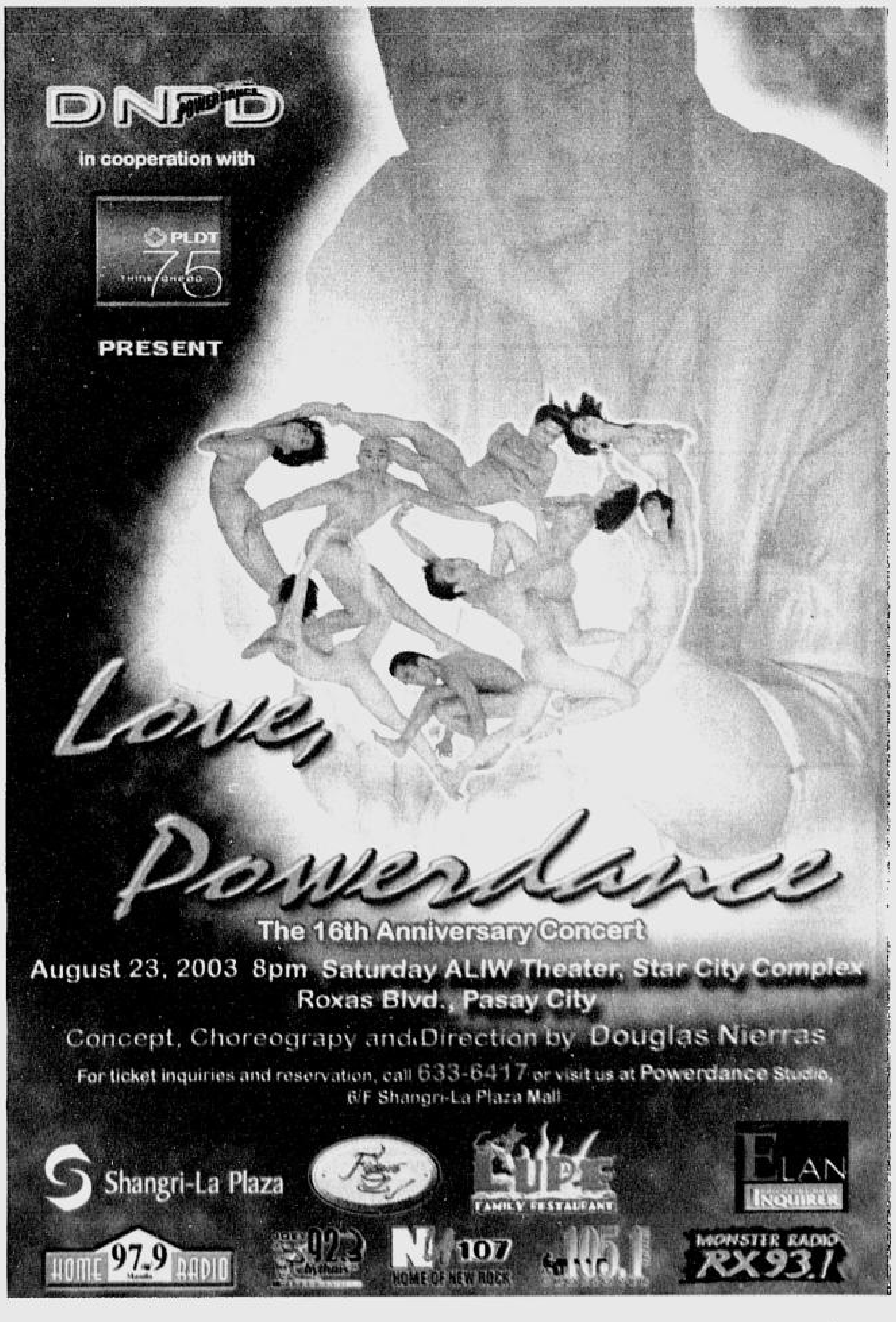
IN THE the article "Finding the Pinoys behind 'Nemo,'" we mistakenly identified the Filipino animator as Virginia "Gini" Cruz. Her complete name is Virginia "Gini" Cruz Santos.

We regret the error.

MAKATI CINEMANILA2003
5TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
7-24 August 2003
Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center
Screening Schedule
www.cinemanila.com.ph

		11:30 am	2:00 pm	4:30 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
Aug 17 Sunday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	HOUSE OF GUAVAS Vietnam	OIL CHILDREN Iran	DEKADA '70 Philippines	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	DIVINE INTERVENTION Palestine
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	EDI Poland	MR. AND MRS. IYER India	BELLEVILLE RENDEZVOUS France	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	CITY OF GOD Brazil
Aug 18 Monday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	CHARLIE. THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN USA	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	THE TRACKER Australia	UZAK Turkey	BRIEF CROSSING France
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	RITO TERMINAL Mexico	DE LA CALLE Mexico	OTILIA RAUDA Mexico	LA PLUMA DEL ARCANGEL Venezuela	EROTIC TALES Germany
Aug 19 Tuesday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	POWER TRIP (Documentary) USA	EDI Poland	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA Philippines	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	PUBLIC TOILET Hong Kong
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	OTILIA RAUDA Mexico	DOLLS Japan	THE SON (Le Fils) Belgium/France	BLESSING BELL Japan	EROTIC TALES Germany
Aug 20 Wednesday	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	CA BAU KAH (A Courtesan) Indonesia	PILA BALDE Philippines	ANGEL ON THE RIGHT Tajikistan	BRIEF CROSSING France	RING I Japan
	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2	RAIN New Zealand	ACOSADA EN LUNES DE CARNAVAL Venezuela	MAYA India	WHALE RIDER New Zealand	DOLLS Japan

Changes in the screening schedule are a result of film festival print traffic. Additional screenings to be announced later.



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in cooperation with
PLDT 75
PRESENT
Love, Powerdance
The 16th Anniversary Concert
August 23, 2003 8pm Saturday ALIW Theater, Star City Complex
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Concept, Choreograpy and Direction by Douglas Nierras
For ticket inquiries and reservation, call 633-6417 or visit us at Powerdance Studio, 6/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Shangri-La Plaza
ELAN INQUIRER
HOME 97.9 RADIO
107 HOME OF NEW ROCK
MONSTER RADIO RX93.1

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 MR. BONES
4 LXG

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 FINDING NEMO
2 NOON AT NGAYON
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LXG 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
4 THE DEBUT
5 TOMB RAIDER II
6 CITY OF GOD (Special Screenings)
7 BAD BOYS II

GB1 GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm
1 CINEMANILA
2 CINEMANILA
Onstage
APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK
Aug. 28 - 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 BAD BOYS II 1:30 4:30
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 LXG 12:30 2:50
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE IN-LAWS 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 11:00
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 LXG 1:30 3:50 6:20 8:50 11:20
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 FINDING NEMO 1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15 10:30

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THX 1 LXG
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS II
5 LXG

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) MR. BONES
2 (SDDS) FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) TOMB RAIDER-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) NOON AT NGAYON
8 DEBUT
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 BULLET PROOF MONK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SA NOON AT NGAYON
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 FINDING NEMO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 FINDING NEMO
2 THE IN LAWS
3 SNAKE LADY
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 MOTEL

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 NAKED WEAPON
2 MOTEL
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 FINDING NEMO
6 BAD BOYS-2

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1 THE IN LAWS
2 SNAKE LADY

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1
2 BAD BOYS-2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 RESERVE
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
9 (DOLBY) FINDING NEMO

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 (DTS) BAD BOYS-2
8 MOTEL
9 TOMB RAIDER-2

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 FINDING NEMO
2 (SDDS) BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 MOTEL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 SNAKE LADY
5 (SDDS) DEATH WATCH

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson REAL CANCUN
Lords VIRGIN PEOPLE
Jennet RESERVE

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SNAKE LADY
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 FINDING NEMO
4

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NAKED WEAPON
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 · 879.2029
1 SNAKE LADY
2 NOON AT NGAYON

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 NAKED WEAPON
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
6 BULLET PROOF MONK
7 FINDING NEMO

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 FINDING NEMO
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FINDING NEMO
2 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) SO CLOSE
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
3 TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) LIGAYA PANTASYA NG NG BAYAN
2 BABASAGIN KRISTAL
3 (DTS) VENUS
4 FINDING NEMO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 RESERVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NAKED WEAPON

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 BAD BOYS-2
2 MOTEL
3 (DTS) NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS-2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MOTEL
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 FINDING NEMO
3 (DOLBY) BAD BOYS-2
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 FINDING NEMO
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 MOTEL
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 MOTEL
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MY LITTLE EYE
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 BULLETPROOF MONK
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 NOON AT NGAYON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 FINDING NEMO
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 MOTEL
11 DARK WATER
12 NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 DARK WATER
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 NOON AT NGAYON

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 MR. BONES
7 DARK WATER
8 THE DEBUT
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
11 BULLETPROOF MONK
12 TUKAAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 THE DEBUT
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 MR. BONES
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 MOTEL
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
9 BAD BOYS 2
10 MY LITTLE EYE

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 DARK WATER
5 WILD BUTTERFLY
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 RESERVED
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 RESERVED
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 NOON AT NGAYON

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 FINDING NEMO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 IMPOSTOR
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
11:05 MF/1:20/3:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

2 FINDING NEMO
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
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MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632-9115 TO 16 633-7641 LOC. 195

THX /All Digital

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30 THX
2 FINDING NEMO 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4 THE IN-LAWS 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
7 THE DEBUT 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
8 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
9 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
10 MR. BONES 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am-4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-717809 TO 13
1 LXG - 10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:00
2 FINDING NEMO - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 THE DEBUT - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
4 THE IN-LAWS - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 MR. BONES - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 NOON AT NGAYON - 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40
7 LXG - 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

Metro East Marcos hway 682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAODINARY GENTLEMEN
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAODINARY GENTLEMEN
8 THE IN-LAWS

Novaliches 935-3229/31
1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 THE IN-LAWS
5 FINDING NEMO
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Malabon 288-0985 288-2575
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LXG
4 FINDING NEMO

Star Mills (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 SNAKE LADY
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 THE IN-LAWS
4 FINDING NEMO
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Imus (046) 471-8188 (046) 875-5858
1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 THE GURU

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049) 837-09-07
1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 NAKED WEAPONS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SNAKE LADY
5 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Bacolod (034) 441-0458-59
1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
6 DEATHWATCH

Iloilo (033) 336-8070/78
1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

NOON AT NGAYON **PG13** 1:25,4:10, 6:55,9:40	**FINDING NEMO** **GP** 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:3010	**BAD BOYS 2** **R13** 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20
LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN **PG13** 1:55,4:20,6:45,9:10	**THE IN-LAWS** **PG13** 1:10,3:20,5:30, 7:40,9:50	**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN** **PG13** 12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10

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Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 7	FINDING NEMO

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
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ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
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CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LXG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-7	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-8	ALIPIN NG ALIW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LXG
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	DEBUT
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	NOON AT NGAYON

LORES.

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PINAS)	LXG
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTEL

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(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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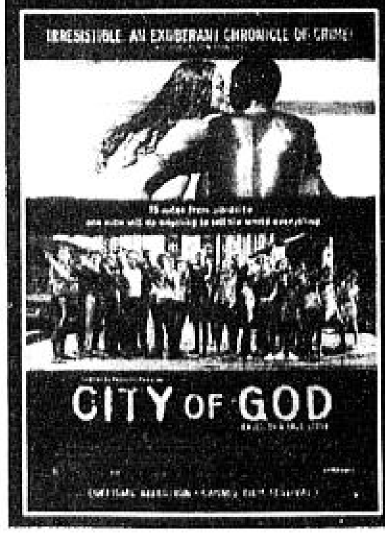

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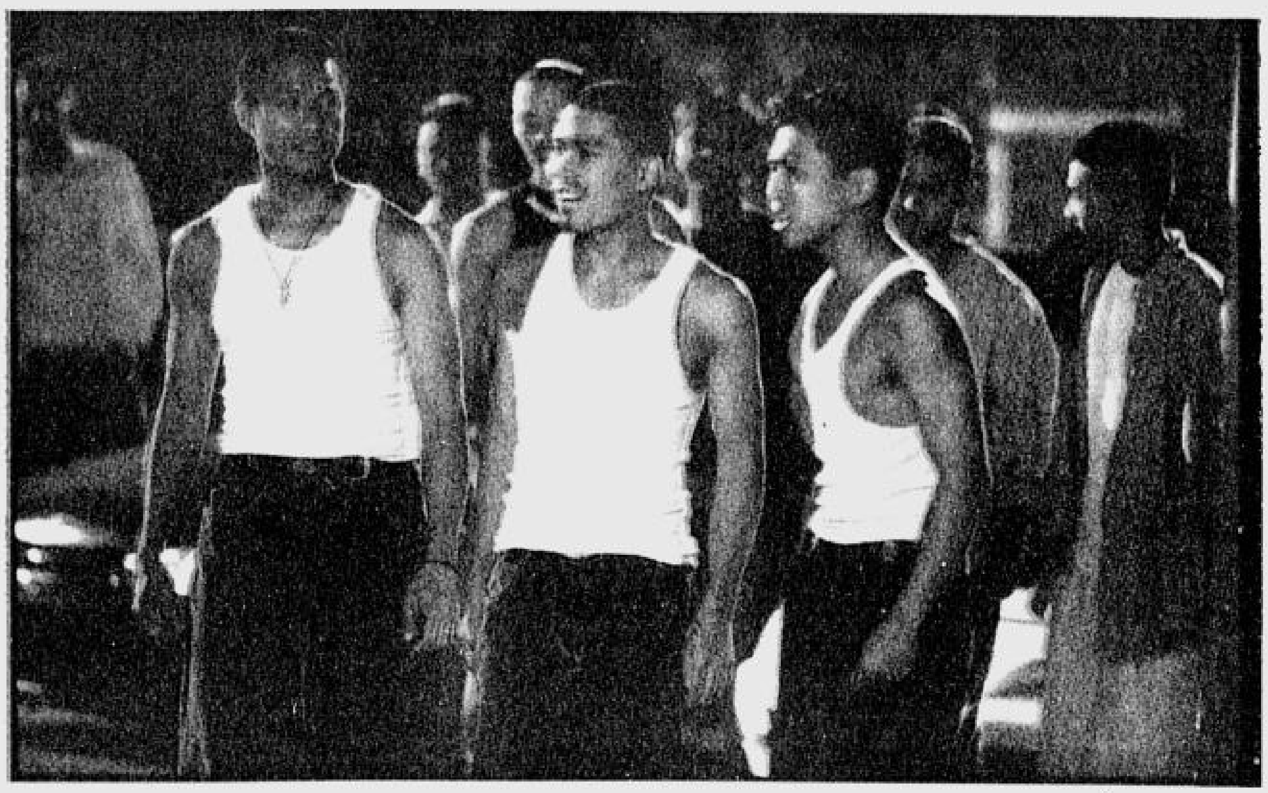

"SURREAL, amazing and wonderful at the same time" is how the director describes the experience of making "The Debut" (right).

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

GENE Cajayon speaks fast, but he does so comprehensibly and eloquently. The Filipino-American director of "The Debut" has just arrived from the US a few hours before the press conference. He shows no signs of it, as he eagerly and energetically talks about his directorial debut, along with cast members Gina Alajar, Tirso Cruz III, and Eddie Garcia.

"It's beyond words for me," Cajayon says. "It's surreal, amazing and wonderful at the same time."

"The Debut" was made and screened even before Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo," Alajar claims. It is also about Filipino-Americans, only Cajayon's story is set in the West Coast. Cajayon reveals that it's loosely autobiographical, and that the characters are amalgamations of him, his friends and his relatives.

The director recalls the project's major setback: "We were under extremely stressful circumstances because, honestly, we had no money. It was very difficult to get through our shoot. It was because of the professionalism and goodwill of these people (referring to the actors) that we were able to get through it."

CAJAYON

BASCO

Stars audition

Alajar reveals that she wasn't Cajayon's first choice for the role of immigrant Mrs. Mercado because of her looks, but she eventually landed it anyway after her audition. "I always welcomed challenges," she says, "so I don't have any qualms about doing auditions, even when other actors would say, 'You're Gina Alajar, they should get you for your credentials!' But I don't have that ego.

"I did the audition, and I think that first time, Gene fell in love with me already," she adds with a laugh.

Cajayon jokingly interrupts, "So you don't have that kind of ego!"

Cruz plays an embittered father to young actor Dante Basco's character. "It was a very enlightening experience," says Cruz. "It gave you a different sense of professionalism, so to speak. Gene's as stubborn as a mule. Whatever he wanted, he got."

He also auditioned for his part, which required the ability to sing. Garcia, however, was the exception to Cajayon's auditioning rule.

"He offered me the role of the patriarch, the *lolo*," Garcia relates. "Immediately, I said, without batting an eyelash or looking at the script, 'Yes, let's give it a try.'"

Discouraged

Garcia received a total of five scripts, rewritten in the span of two months. "Finally in November 1997, we flew to LA and started the film," says the veteran actor. "I will sum it up in a few words: 'The Debut' is Gene Cajayon's labor of love."

From the outset, though, the project had its share of naysayers. Cajayon elaborates: "It was mainly because of the subject matter. Everybody that we talked to, when we told them this is a movie that has a Filipino and Filipino-American cast and it deals with an ethnic minority that's never been given any sort of exposure in American films before, people said, 'That's nice, but we don't think you're going to make money.'"

The director was discouraged, but went on with it, anyway. "The film wasn't finished until the year 2000," he says. "After that, it took us another three years of self-promotion and driving around the country to get a major studio like Columbia to pay attention and pick us up for a worldwide release."

The persistence paid off, and the film earned its share of awards, including Best Film Feature in the Hawaii International and

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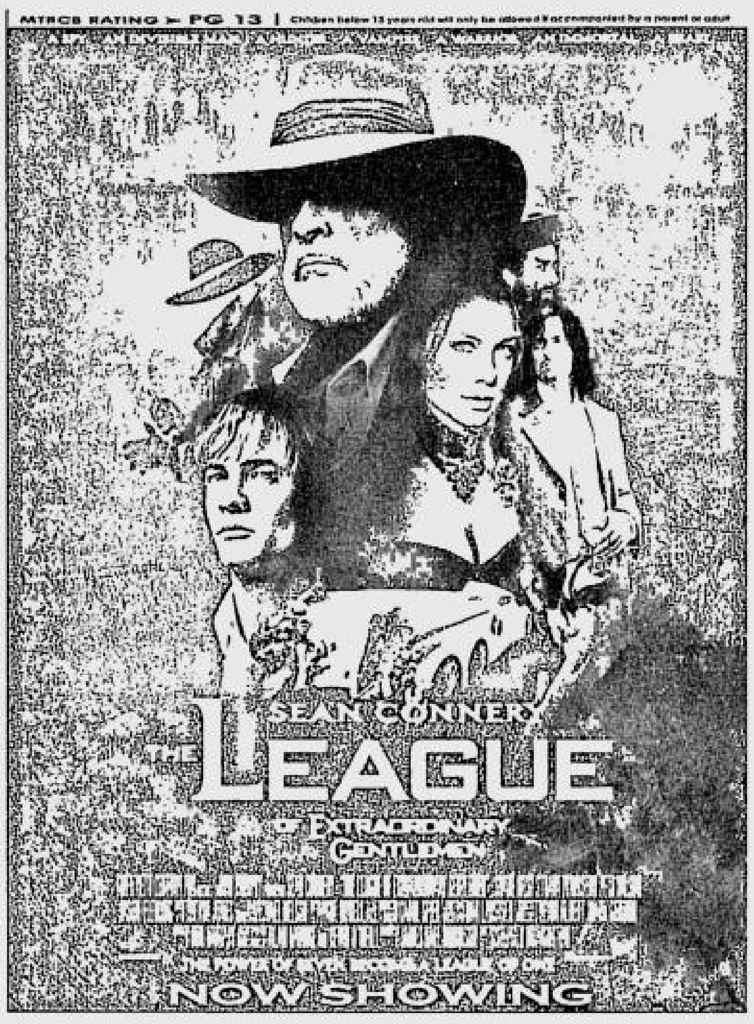
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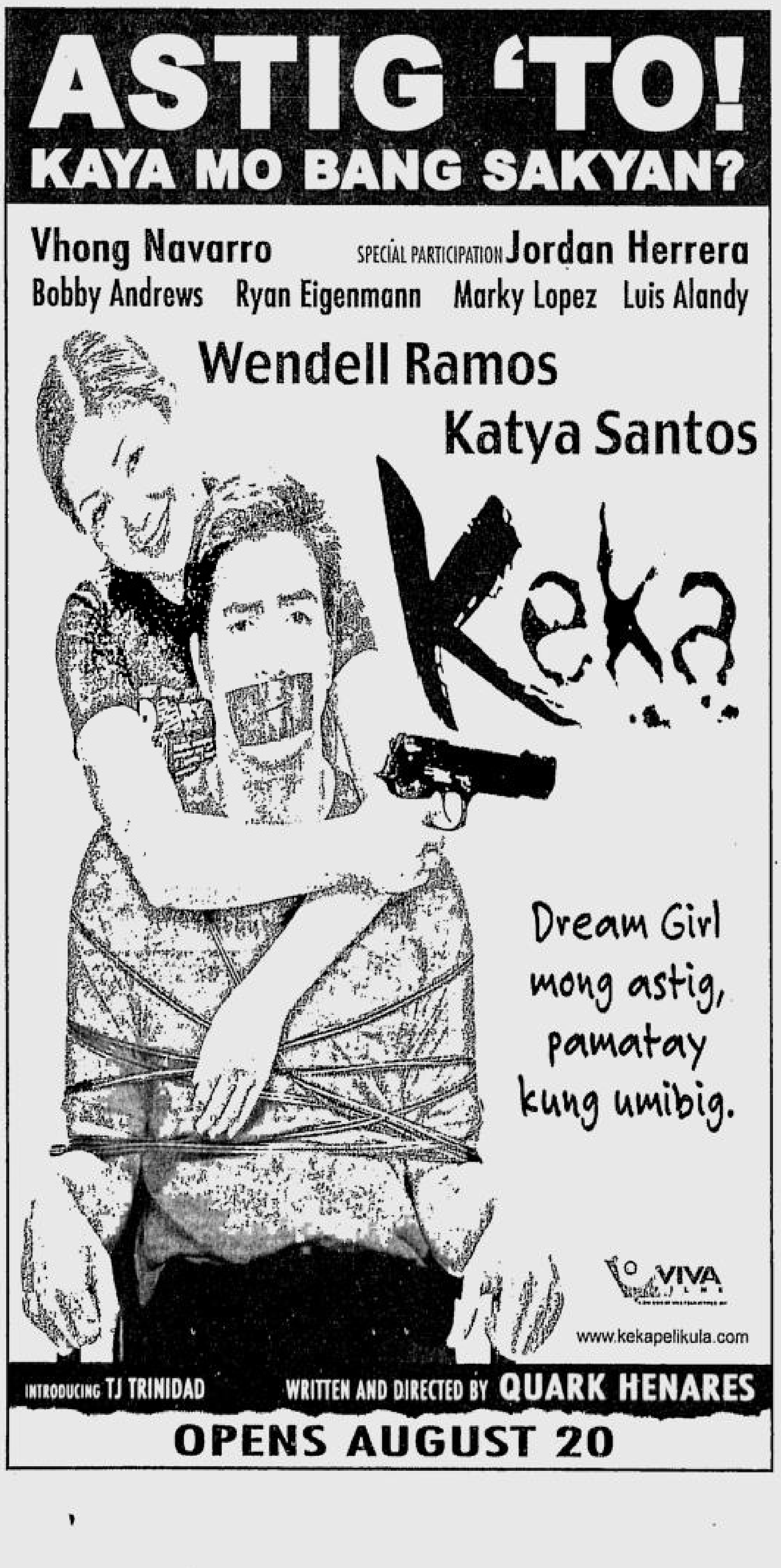
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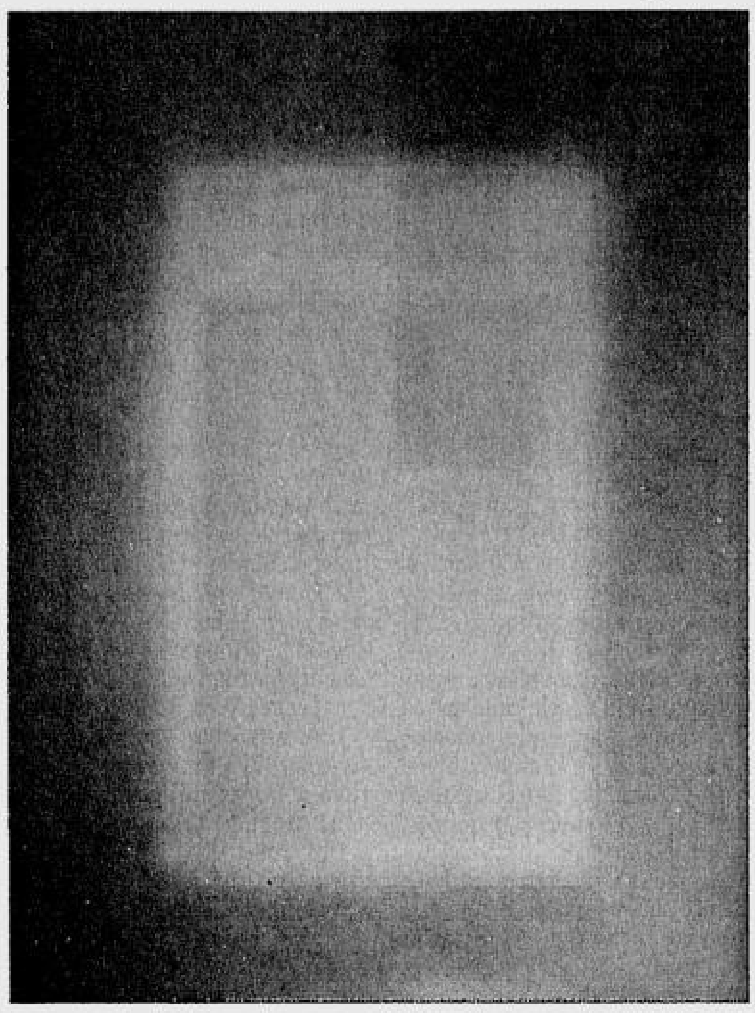

UNTITLED abstract in red and violet silhouetted by two rectangular planes

He studied under Josef Albers, Edwin Savage and Wilhelm de Kooning

THE ARTIST in his studio at 45 Marilag St., UP Village

Constancio Bernardo, stalwart of Philippine abstract art; 89

By Barbara Mae Dacanay
Contributor

CONSTANCIO Bernardo, the unrecognized father of abstract art in the Philippines, died on Aug. 8, after three weeks of battling pneumonia at the Lung Center. He was 89.

He was buried on Aug. 12, at Himlayang Pilipino in Quezon City. He was survived by his wife Nieves de Guzman, 92, and his two sons Diego Angelo, anthropologist, and Leopoldo Rodino, architect; daughters-in-law Celia Agulto of the Civil Service Commission, and Cynthia Garcia; eight grandchildren, two of whom are taking up Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines; and five great-grandchildren.

Apart from a lifetime devotion to his art, he spent his creative years teaching at UP Diliman from 1947 to 1978.

Critics hailed him as early as 1952 as the father of Philippine abstract art. That was after four years of studies for his bachelor and master's degrees at the Yale University, 1948-52.

In Yale, he trained under the tutelage of Josef Albers, the famous Hungarian expatriate noted for plumbing psychological territories through his colors on canvas.

Bernardo's artistry was also honed by Edwin Savage and Wilhelm de Kooning, among other modern artists in the '50s in the US.

In his 20 art exhibits in prestigious galleries in Manila, from the early 1950s to the '90s, he became known as the Filipino artist who made his canvases a sacred space for colors alone, not out of will but out of his strong and unrelenting conviction that colors alone were his art's life force.

Bernardo has been known as the Filipino master who could make colors vibrate with mysteries, intensities and subtleties. He used hues and chromatic effects to underline or subdue lines and optical shapes. But he always arrived at a magical spot on his canvas.

Before he went to the US, he was one of the dedicated students of Pablo and Fernando Amorsolo at the UP College of Fine Arts from 1940 to 1941. The Amorsolo brothers were known for their impeccable semi-impressionistic depiction of Philippine landscapes and rural sceneries.

Despite having consistently exhibited abstract art since his arrival from the US in the '50s, he continued to make numerous nudes and abstract expressionist works.

Apollonian-Dionysian

The late art critic Leo Benesa said that Bernardo's "Apollonian approach was counterbalanced by a Dionysian spirit, [such]

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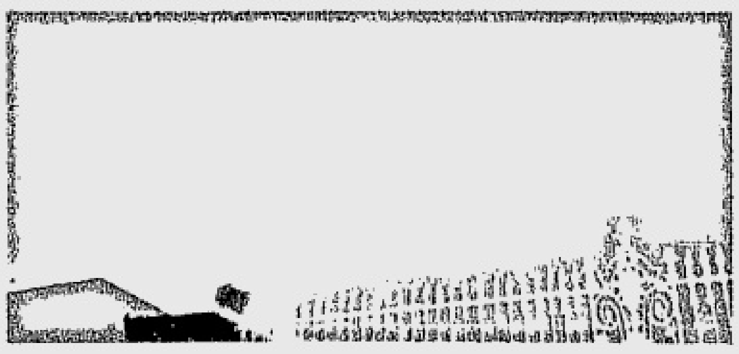
Urban landscape of the mind

By Constantino C. Tejero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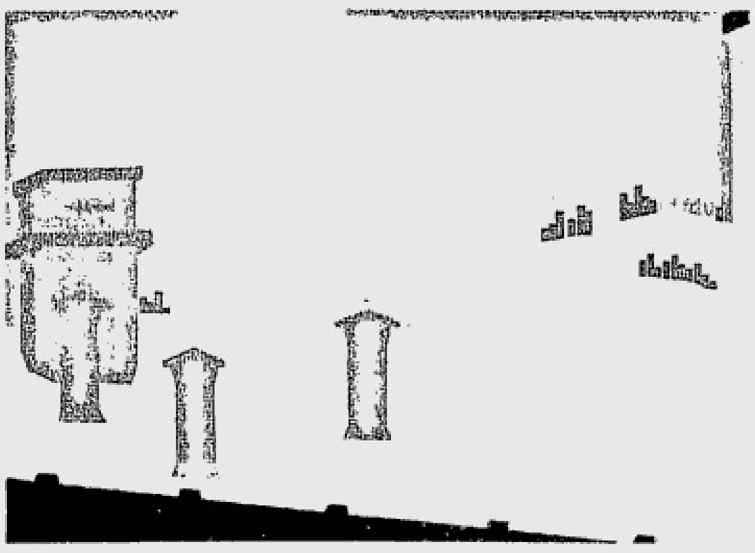
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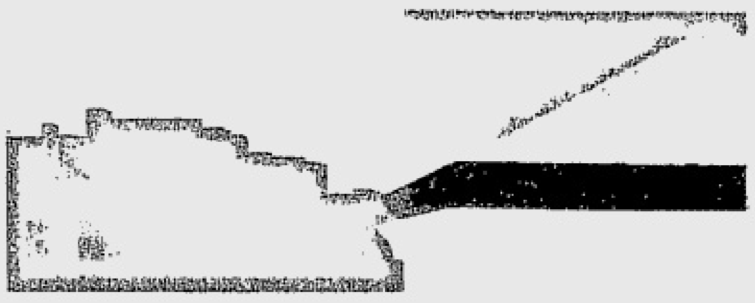
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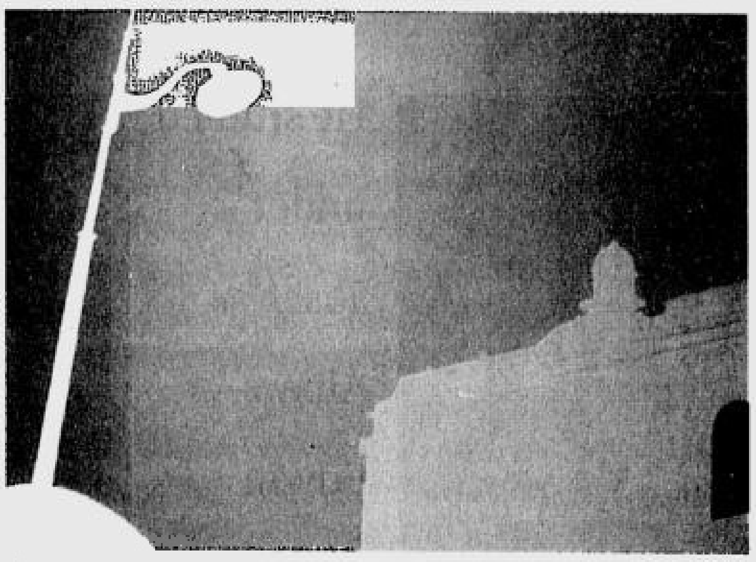
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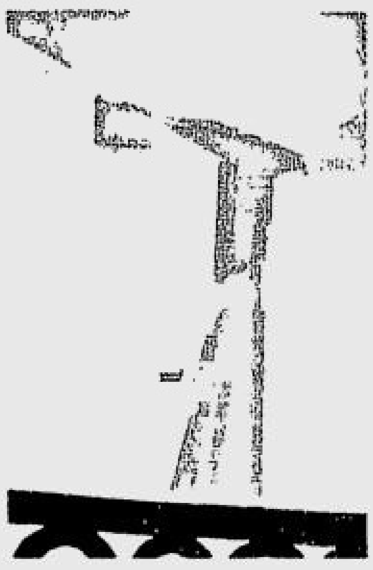

"RUE Caroline"

JON Cuyson is a most unique artist. Witness how he approaches minimalism in his art.

It is not only the flatness of his color, the rigidity of line, the bare essentials of form, the control of brushstroke or the limitation of his palette, but also the perspective, the balancing of abstraction and figuration, the effects achieved.

For such simple-looking illustrations, he says it takes him about two weeks to finish a regular piece. And to attain the effect he wants, the application of acrylic averages 10-15 layers.

"Every artist has one single thing to say," Cuyson says, "but what matters most is the way you say it."

See how strangely this young artist says it in his exhibit "Paris Paintings," ongoing until Aug. 22 in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

These are seven large pieces in acrylic on paper depicting building silhouettes, architectural details based on photographs he took of buildings the last time he was in Paris.

Meticulously sketched with pencil, the outlines are filled with washes of color. This isn't color-field painting, however, though the pieces are composed of large expanses of unmodulated color. They're more like airbrushed photo illustrations from architecture books, but oddly angled, oddly cropped.

The pieces are predominantly gray and white. "White Rooftops" Series 1-4 are typical. Cuyson explains it was the mood of the city when he was there: the snow, the sky.

But there's also black, moss-green, purple, with touches of cobalt-blue, granite-red, tobacco-brown, ochre, pink, cream, international orange. "Purple Musee d'Orsay" is, of course, in purple, duo-toned.

Most are low-angled, exploiting the clean expanse of the sky, broken only by the rectangles of smokestacks, the edges of eaves, cornices, drainpipes. "Rue Caroline" is the only piece with a high-angle perspective, showing a top view of the street.

The odd cropping includes "White Gates of Versailles." Its title notwithstanding, the piece shows only the white spikes of the gates, then the brown rooftop, a blue-black spotlight, against a green sky.

Influences of Cuyson's favorite artists may be perceived in his work. The rigid grid is from Mondrian, the mystical emptiness from De Chirico.

But he says he also loves Matisse, which doesn't quite explain the color range and tones in this exhibit. And Motherwell as well, but one wonders how the American abstractionist's bold color and amorphous form could have any influence on these pieces.

"I guess what I wanted to create was the balance between the figurative and the abstract," says Cuyson. "There's that ambiguity in my work, *na tumatalon-talon—na* flat *na may* three-point perspective, solid *na hindi*, abstract *na hindi*."

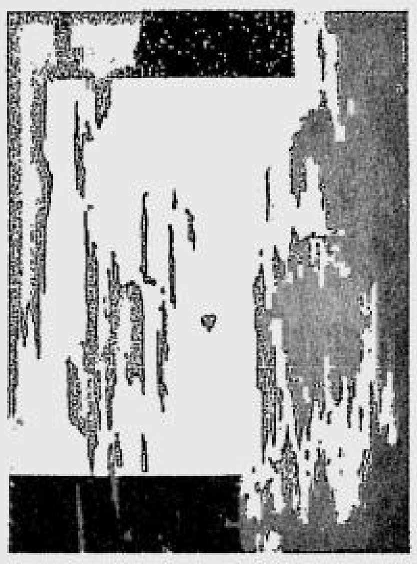
A Fine Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines in Baguio, Cuyson had attended Parson's School of Design and the Arts Student League, both in New York.

Like any other artist, he has gone through various styles and genres, from still life to abstraction. And this exhibit may just be one of them.

"In my early works, I was doing human figure," he says. "You know what, *ito na siguro ang pinaka*-landscape *ko*, my cityscape. When I was in Paris, for some reason I was fascinated only by the buildings, *mga bubong*, the sky..."

He explains his creative process thus: "It's really a visual pun on the original photographic image. It's an endless mirroring. I just go along with the process, and I'm very happy with it."

'Subject Matters' at West, Emma Navarro at Westin


"RED Painting," acrylic, by Jon Cuyson at West-Glorietta

VISUAL ARTS

WEST Gallery presents the group exhibit dubbed "Subject Matters," featuring Pablo Biglang-Awa, Jon Cuyson, R.M. de leon, Jason Oliveria and Juni Salvador. The show seeks to present the creative compulsion to draw from diverse, media-driven objects as basic references. West Gallery is at the 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 7527028 to 29.

JOE Datuin, Phillip Victor and Romy Gutierrez are holding their group exhibit at Gallery Nine, 4/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, until Aug. 24.

THE ATENEO Art Gallery exhibits "Decode" until Sept. 9. The show is divided into "physical" and "virtual" exhibits. The physical show features the works of Noell El Farol, John Marin Flores, Martin Gomez, Alfredo Manrique, Josh Nimoy, Claro Ramirez, José Tence Ruiz, Rodolfo Samonte, Marc San Valentin. The online exhibit features Elemento, Batch 83, Carl Chua, and other young artists. Call 4266001, ext. 4160.

THE UP Diliman Office for the Initiatives in Culture and the Arts, in cooperation with the Department of Visual Communication, UP College of Fine Arts, will hold an exhibit of editorial cartoons on US-Iraq war by the members of the Samahang Kartunista ng Pilipinas titled "Weapons of Mass Distraction."

Participating cartoonists are Freely Abrigo, Jun Aquino, Rene Aranda, Chong Ardivilla, Sonny Bismonte, William Contreras, Neil Doloricon, Manny Francisco, Norman Isaac, Mark Maculangan, Tito Milambiling, Boni Pertiera, Nick Pertiera, Roni Santiago, Roger Sanchez, Jomike Tejido, Boy Togonon, Bladimir Usi and Tonton Young.

The exhibit will open on Aug. 25 at 10 a.m. at the UP College of Science lobby.

THE ART Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc. and the Rotary Club of Makati Pasong Tamo (District 3830) are holding a children's group exhibit of outstanding art students of Fernando B. Sena until Aug. 23, at the SSS Gallery (Collection of Arts and Antiques), 2/F, Social Security System Bldg., East Avenue, QC.

THE DRAWING Room presents "Hawkers, Hookers, Peddlers and Pimps..." until Aug. 27 at GF Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The exhibit features Raul Agner's pen-and-ink drawings.

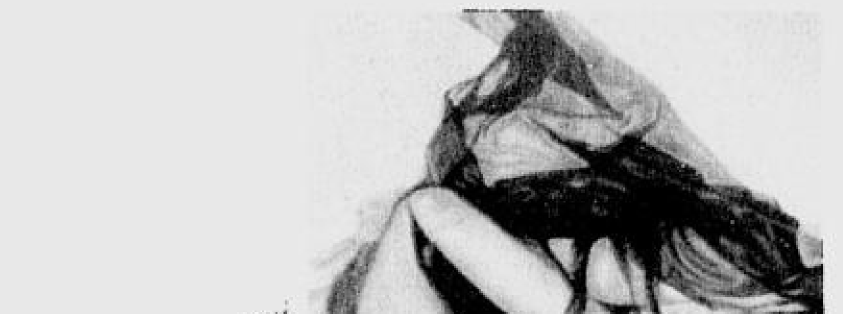
THE MANILA Doctors Hospital's Department of Surgery features the joint exhibit of Romeo and Ela Gutierrez until Aug. 23 at the lobby, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila.

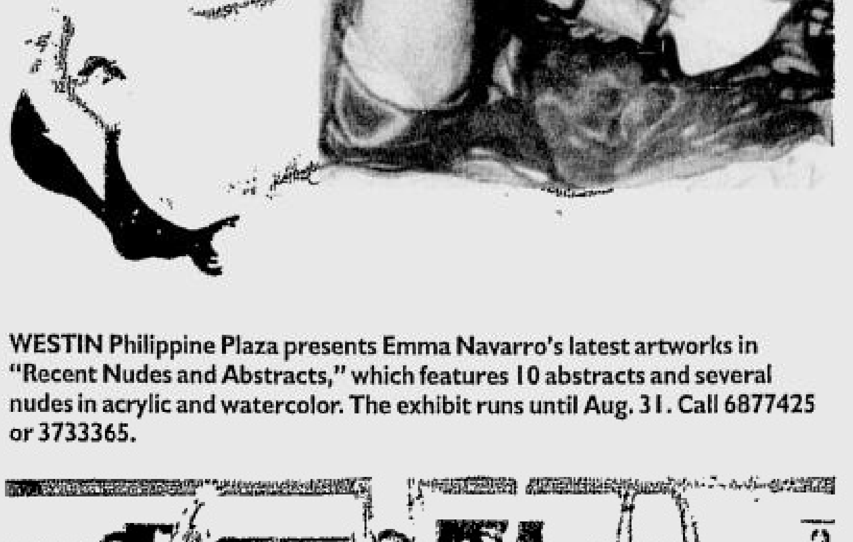
BOSTON Gallery in Cubao, QC, presents Jojo Ballo's "A Season in Bardo" at the Lower Gallery; Jonathan Castro's "Collectibles" at the Upper Gallery; and Samuel Penaso's "Didto sa Amo" at the Gallery Alcove. The shows run until Sept. 3.

SOLANO Cruz celebrates fraternal love in "Magkapatid" at the Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa. The exhibit runs until Aug. 24.

FINALE Art Gallery presents Juan Alcazaren's "Familiarity Breeds," which features insect-like sculptures, large-scale paintings and installation work on Aug. 23-Sept. 7 at the SM Megamall Art Center.

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts Gallery presents "Louas/Luwas: The National Artists Exhibit" this month. Personal effects, costumes, trophies and other memorabilia of Atang de la Rama, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, Daisy Avellana, Severino Montano and Salvador Bernal are displayed at the NCCA Bldg., 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila.


WESTIN Philippine Plaza presents Emma Navarro's latest artworks in "Recent Nudes and Abstracts," which features 10 abstracts and several nudes in acrylic and watercolor. The exhibit runs until Aug. 31. Call 6877425 or 3733365.


THE GINTONG Susi Art Organization, composed of advertising and painting students of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, is holding "Christ in My Art," a painting exhibit that shows the members' personal understanding of Christ, at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences. Show runs until the Aug. 31. Call 7811815 or 7409718.

Japanese avant-garde artist at UFO

"FINGER"

ARTIST Yoshie

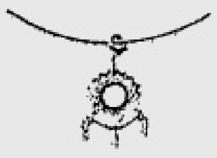
UFO, the local art scene's groundbreaking new space devoted to artist-made objects, reopens in its new location with a new show, "Normal Life," a solo exhibit by Ikeuchi Yoshie.

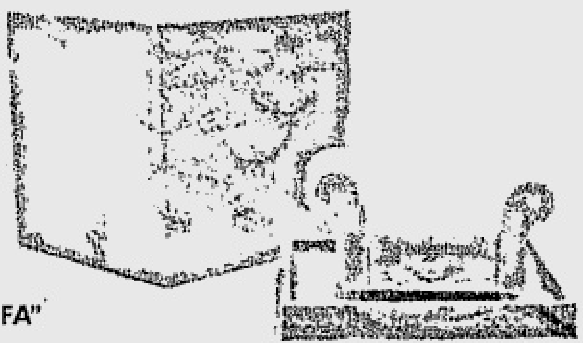
The young artist from Kyoto, Japan, uses fabric, sanitary napkins, and her hair and menstrual flow to create immensely delicate and personal objects.

The show, made possible by the artist-in-residency program of Surrounded by Water, runs from Aug. 19 to 27.

UFO is now located at 85 Araullo St., Addition Hills, San Juan.

UFO also distributes Lomo cameras. For details contact 0917-3228836 or e-mail ufopilipinas@yahoo.com.




"SOFA"

"DREAMCATCHER"

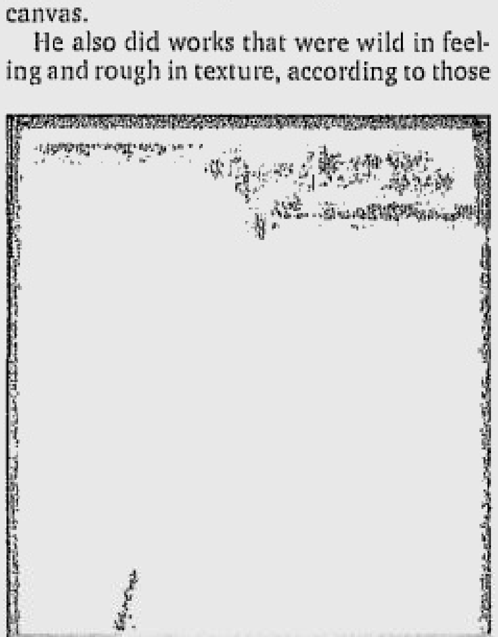
Constancio Bernardo . . .

From page D1

that in the privacy of his studio, he does abstract expressionist works for his own delectation."

Bernardo was known for his smooth surfaces, clear lines, dramatic but studied transposition of colors, and breathtaking but also choreographed leap of colors on canvas.

He also did works that were wild in feeling and rough in texture, according to those who knew him.


BERNARDO'S "Transmutations," in light green and blue fused by geometric shapes

These private works were done on surfaces not associated with Bernardo's exhibited works, such as old wood, sand, asphalt and other experimental textures.

"Four months before his death, he was refurbishing his studio because he wanted to devote his time to watercolor," said his son Diego Angelo, an anthropologist, who had just finished documenting an estimated 6,000 works of Bernardo, with the assistance of the Ayala Foundation.

When Bernardo was in his 80s, he still insisted on using a manual saw instead of a power tool to cut pieces of wood.

"He was always battling with himself, despite his quiet ways," said Angelo.

Benesa once said, "While other artists of Bernardo's generation and the next are having houses built and tax problems sorted out, he does his own framing in his house and studio."

Benesa and other critics praised the "rarefied air of Bernardo's sensibility" and his deep loyalty to the modern temper.

Nestor Vinluan, former dean of UP's College of Fine Arts, said, "Although he was reticent, not outgoing, and a very private person, he was very generous and shared a lot with his students while teaching at the College of Fine Arts."

"He was a pure artist who had devoted his entire life not only to painting but to teaching generation of students," said Georgina Reyes Encanto, former dean of UP College of Mass Communications.

Such accolades, however, would not stop young artists and critics from asking why Bernardo seemed to have been forgotten.

Bob's Studios marks 60th year

BOB Razon, the dean of portrait photographers, marks the 60th anniversary of Bob's Studios this month.

Razon has taken the photographs of the most glamorous and influential Filipinos of the last half-century since 1943.

He received recently the Ulirang Ama 2003 award.

His Bob's Custom Photography Inc. was chosen the most outstanding photo and video studio in the 2003 People's Choice of the 19th National Consumer Quality Awards.

Among recent subjects of the master photographer were members of the Senate and their spouses, top-ranking officers of the military and the police, and the justices of the Supreme Court.

Razon has been the photographer of choice of Philippine presidents, taipans, beauty queens, movie stars, fashion icons, professionals, and people from all walks of life.

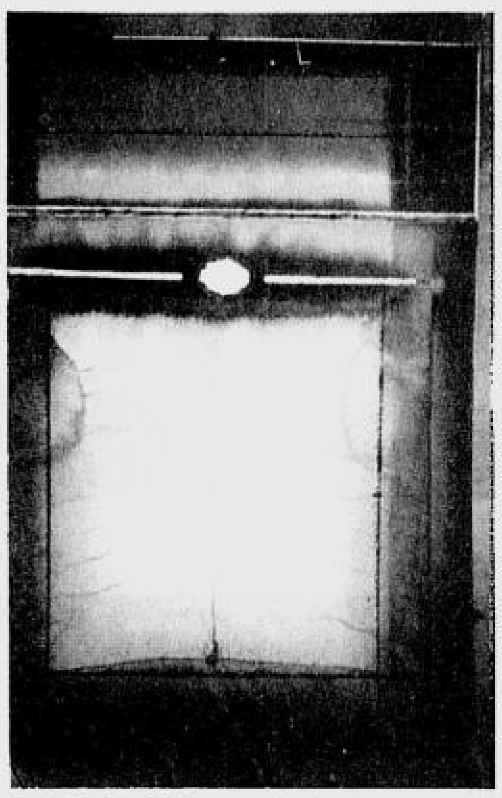
BOB Razon (right) with son Robert Jr.

Thousands of couples have also had their wedding day documented in the longest-running studio in the country. Razon, who specialized early in his career in children's portraits, remains unmatched in capturing the many moods of kids through his lens.

As part of the studio's 60th anniversary celebration, the studio is offering until Sept. 30 a special promo of two framed portraits for the price of one. Portraits may range in size from 16 x 20 to life-size. Among the first to avail of the special offer was Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and his family.

Bob's Studios also offers restoration services. It covers corporate events and does audio-visual presentations, documentaries, training videos and MTV. Digital photography and video services are also available.

Call 523-1533, 524-1777 or 816-1567.


COSMIC Red III (watercolor)

Seductive spell and . . .

From page D4

The artist leaves his personal imprint through an omnipresent orb, or series of orbs, that is as evanescent as the gently fading hues. Resembling a hole, an allusion to the damaged ozone layer, the orb changes shape and color, from white to gold, occasionally appearing in combination, like brightly speckled lunar forms in the horizon.

The watercolors are even more alluring. With an overlay of warm and cool colors, the works in aquarelle allow the medium to take its natural course. Subtly seeping and slowly dripping into the surface, the movements are both preordained and spontaneous, in contrasting horizontal and vertical arrangements. The shapes are framed in red colors, the inner forms conjured in subtle shades of yellow. Neutral shades of olive green and powder blue hover above, perhaps alluding to the levels of life.

Ramirez's works in pastel are more rigorously executed, with hard-edged, geometric forms that revel in the interplay of contrasting vertical-horizontal compositions. The multi-layered, multi-leveled appearances assume the image of drapes opening to a door, complete with a grand proscenium that leads the eye to a cosmic center with light emanating from the door.

The show is truly magisterial in its exploration of medium, color and the ways of the cosmos. In his continuing elaboration of vital artistic concerns, Ramirez also evolves as an artist, successfully merging the private and the cosmic, the earthly and the divine, an art that excites the senses as it exalts the soul.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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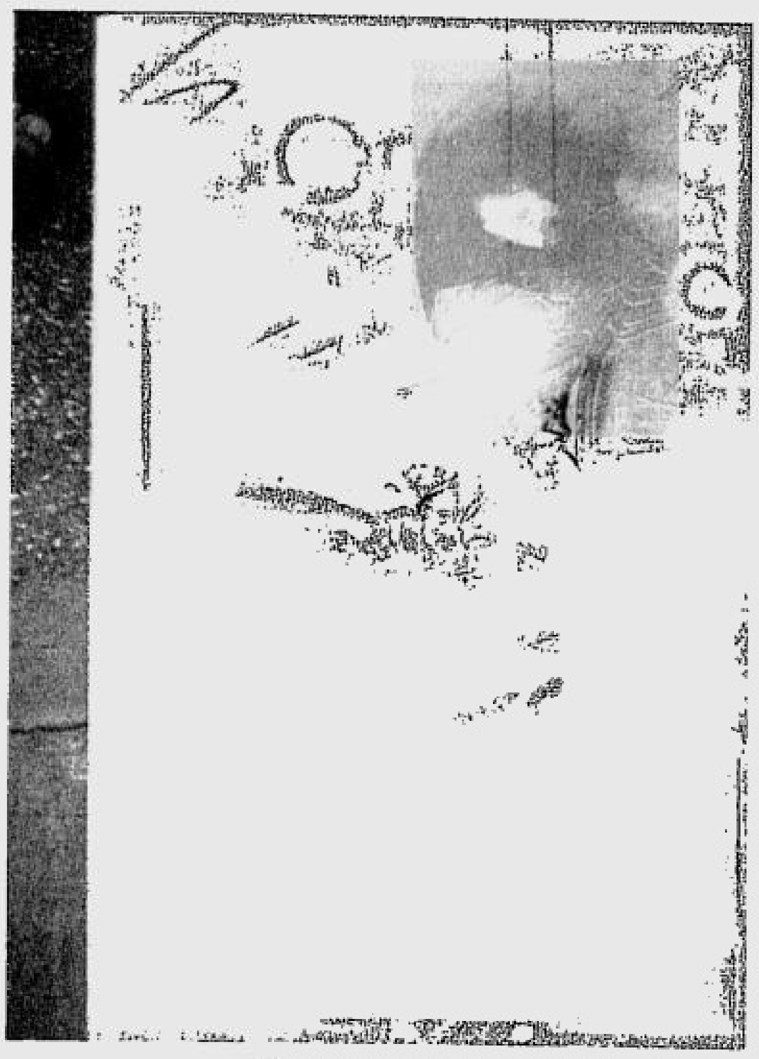
Seductive spell and cosmic images

Fred Ramirez blurs style boundaries

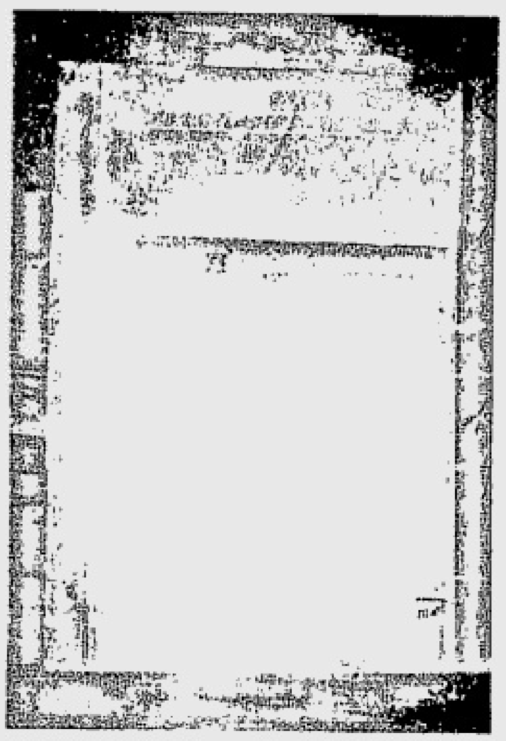
By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

AT A TIME when many artists simultaneously navigate abstraction and representation, Fred Ramirez serves both muses equally well. This he amply proved in the annual Kulay sa Tubig competition, as well as last year's Pintanaw group exhibit.

Ramirez is totally unperturbed by the wrangling over what muse to love and serve. While he remains enamored with realism, the heady spell of abstraction fuels his imagination.



COSMIC Travel II (mixed media)



COSMIC-LIGHT (pastel)

Ramirez is well aware that boundaries in styles have now been blurred. He only has to fully explore the wide-ranging creative options at his disposal.

In his fifth solo show, Ramirez wisely sticks to his natural instincts, responding to the rich cosmology of his imagery with characteristic flair and flamboyance. The abstract works at Gallery Y—in mixed media, watercolor and pastel—cast a seductive spell upon the viewer with their hedonistic fusion of neo-colors and images that evokes a cosmic stream of consciousness.

The works suggest an other-wordly topography of rhythmic transparent planes, illusory shapes merging with, or subsuming, one another, symbolizing the ambiguities of complex mental and emotional states. The dominant forms posit a lively dialogue between opposing vertical and horizontal lines, accented by ubiquitous curvilinear shapes with subliminal significance.

The larger pieces are in mixed media, allowing Ramirez a much wider room for exploring the spatial tension created by his wildly spontaneous brushstrokes, the texture deepened by the swirling impastos and the luminous shapes of varied transparencies.

Pure energy

Ramirez evokes a cosmic terrain of pure psychic energy, from a compressed nerve center that seems to give way to a Zen-like configuration along the borders, where simple calligraphic strokes evoke subtle movements in time and space.

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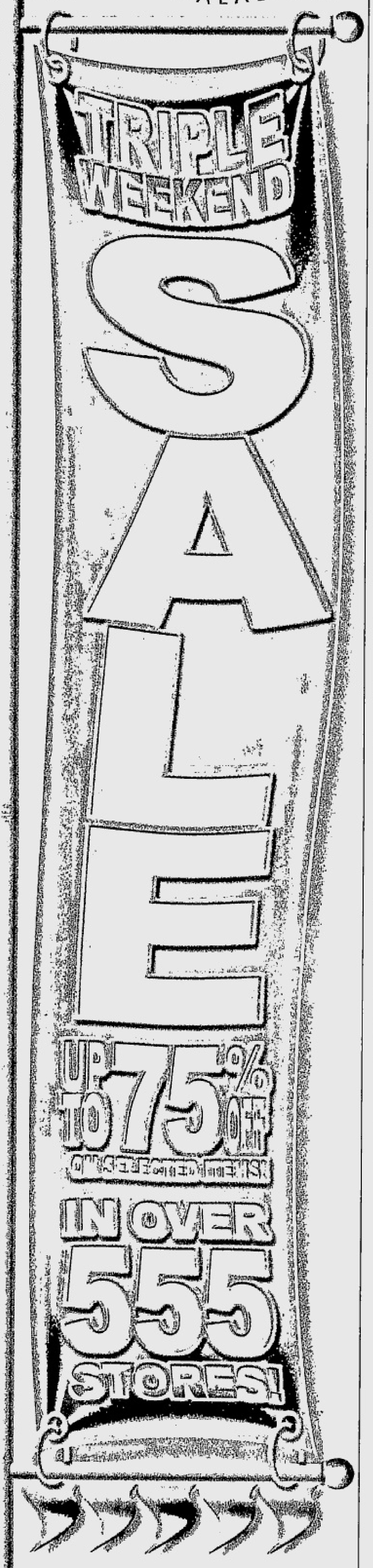

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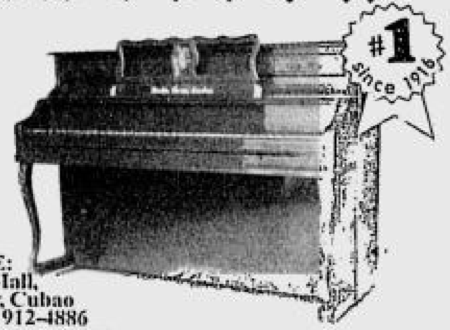

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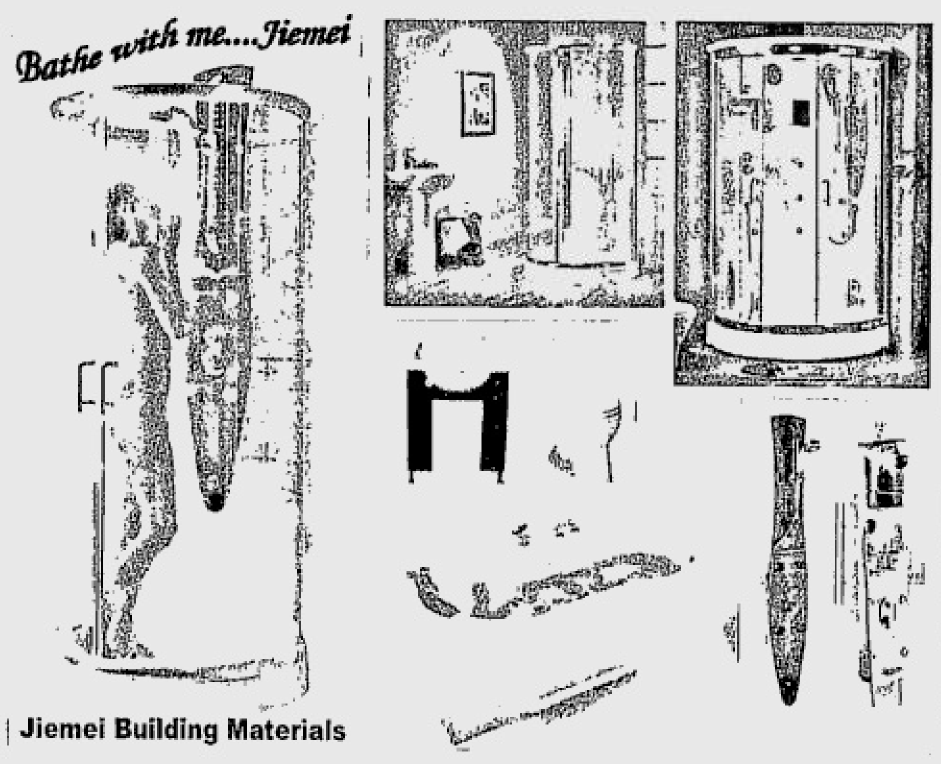

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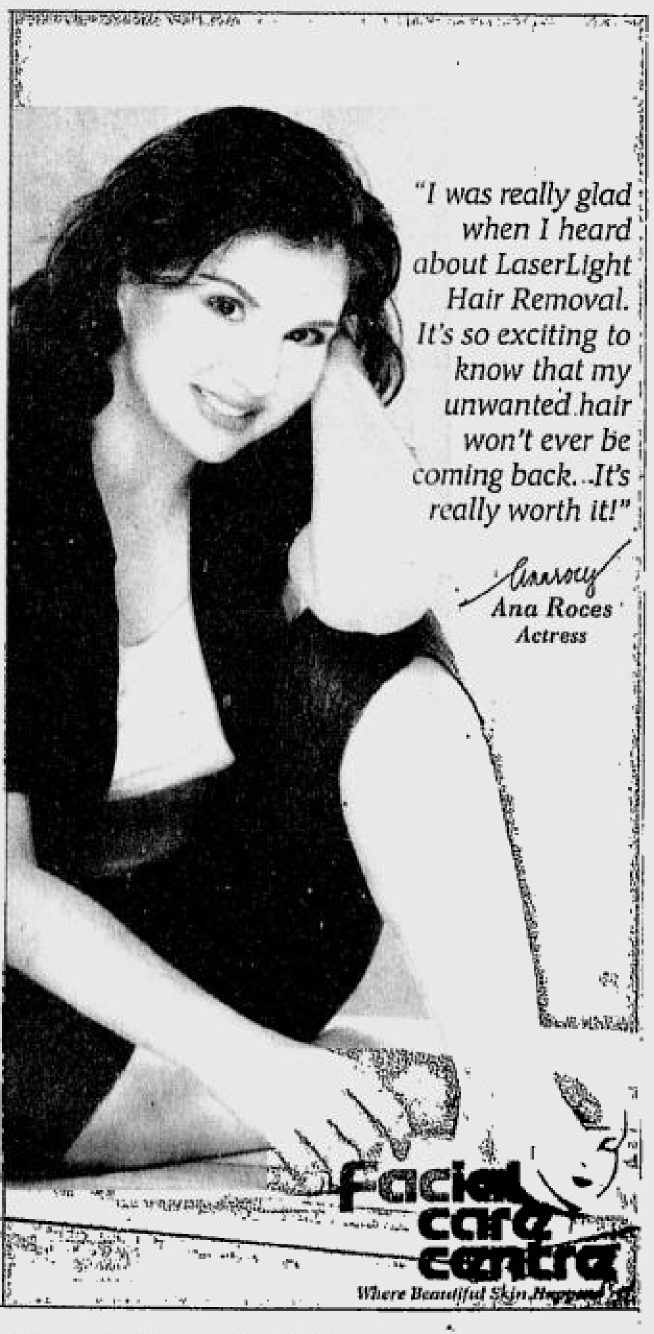

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"FAME doesn't make you an artist. Fame and money can corrupt an artist."

Cecile Licad says fame and money don't move her

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THOSE who attended Cecile Licad's press con Tuesday last week at the Merk's Bar Bistro certainly got a mouthful from the pianist who is not known to open much on subjects not related to her music.

Asked by INQUIRER contributor Grace Shangkuan Koo what her secret was of a consistently good career in the last 30 years of piano playing, Licad said it was her indifference to fame and money.

"It's true, fame doesn't make you an artist," Licad said. "On the other hand, fame and money can corrupt an artist. When you have too much of it, you tend to overlook the hard work and hope fame can compensate for everything. It doesn't."

Asked by Planetworld's Babeth Lolarga how Licad was taking her not being nominated for the National Artist Award, the pianist said awards are not part of her agenda as an artist.

"If I get it, fine, but awards are not the driving force of my life," she said. "You can get derailed as an artist working hard just to get awards. I don't work that way. I serve my art first, and if they like what I am doing, they are free to offer awards. I don't mind getting it when I am dead. It's not such a big deal."

Appearing at the press con in her piano practice get-up and completely devoid of makeup, Licad said simplicity was one of the values she imbibed from her parents.

"My mother is such a stickler for simplicity that I look very vain beside her," she said.

Asked if her 15-year-old son Otavio is just as talented as her on the piano, Licad said maybe his son is more talented because he gets good results without practicing too much. "Me, I have to spend hours on the piano to get the sound I want."

Acclaimed CD

Meanwhile, Licad's latest recording of the piano music of Louis Moreau Gottschalk,

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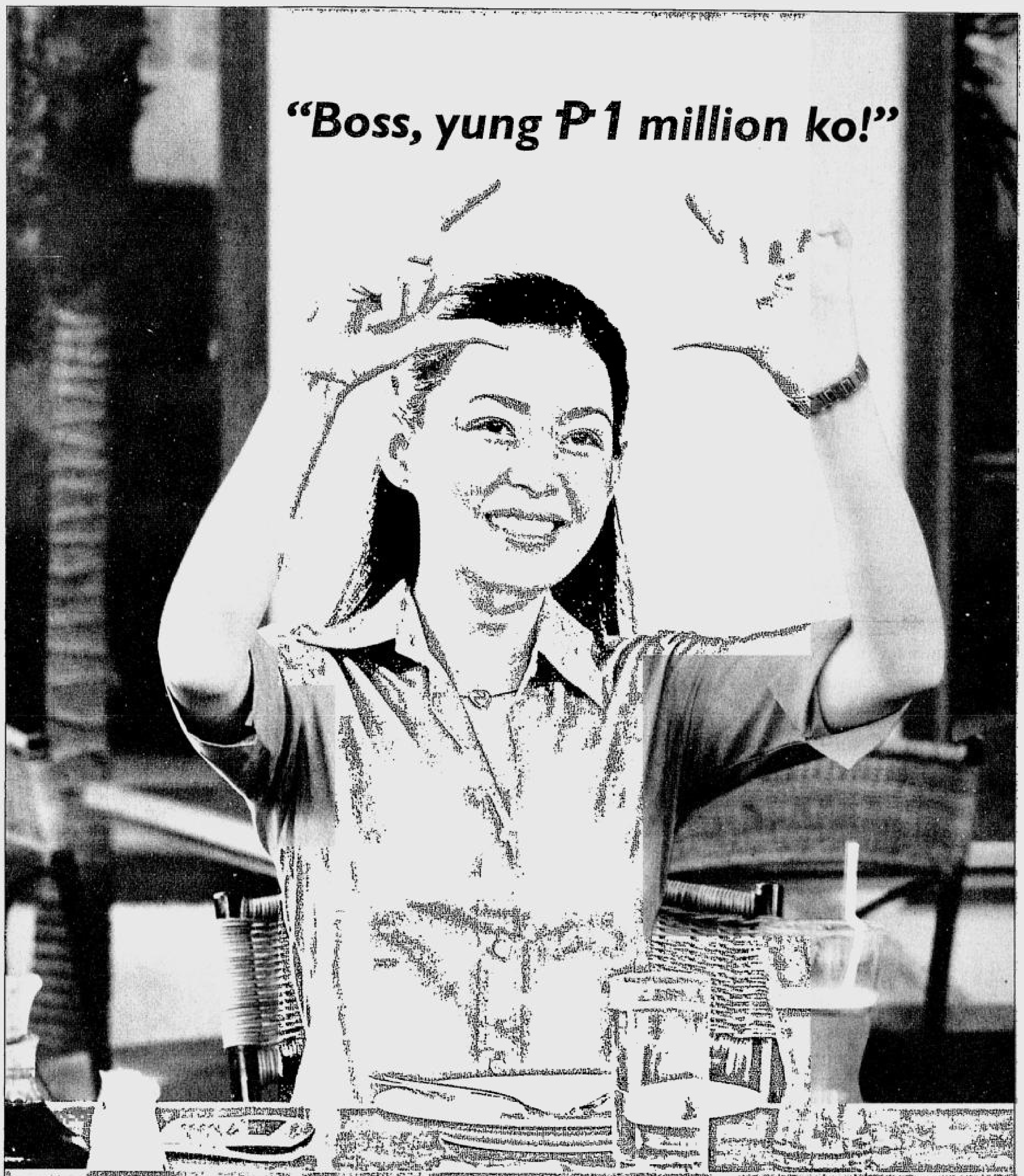

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Abangan ang mga Daily, Monthly (June 30 at July 31, 2003) at Anniversary draws (August 29, 2003). Baka kayo na ang susunod na mananalo!

Ang mga Official Receipts lang na na-issue mula May 15, 2003 ang qualified sa promo. Only entries sent for the day will qualify for the Daily Draw. However, ang mga non-winning entries sa Daily Draws ay isasali sa Monthly and Anniversary draws.

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MALATE ☎ 521.8143	POWER SURGE MR. ROXY	AUG.21-MOONSTAR 88
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	ICE KENDI BEAT BOX	I-AXE EVERY TUESDAY OF AUG. BLAKDYAK EVERY FRIDAY OF AUG.
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7768	I-AXE MISSMO	MISSMO

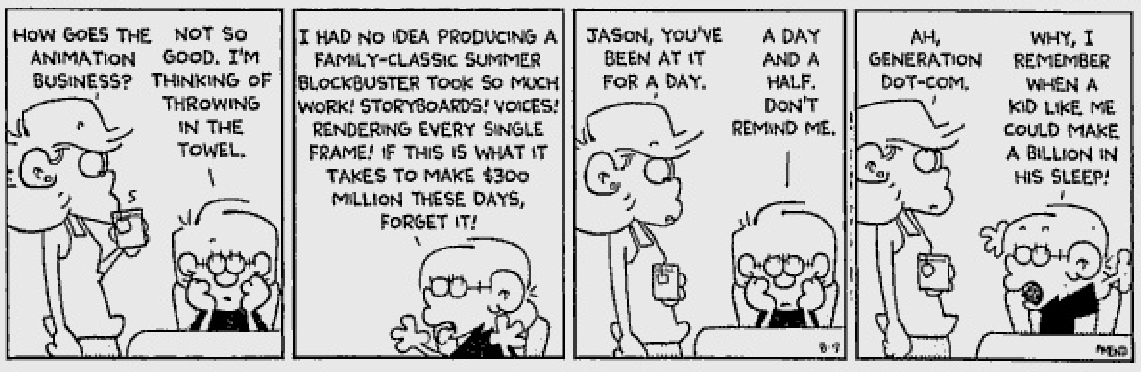
TIA MARIA'S

JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	SYMPHOSIUM 3RD DEGREE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429	P R P 0 2 7	NO ENTRANCE FEE
FOREST	DYNA SOUL T.M. KALAW COR. PARADE ST. LUNETA PARK, MANILA	FREE PULUTAN EVERY 2 PITCHERS OR 5 BOTTLES OF BEER ☎ 400-7435/525-0514

AUGUST 18 MONDAY

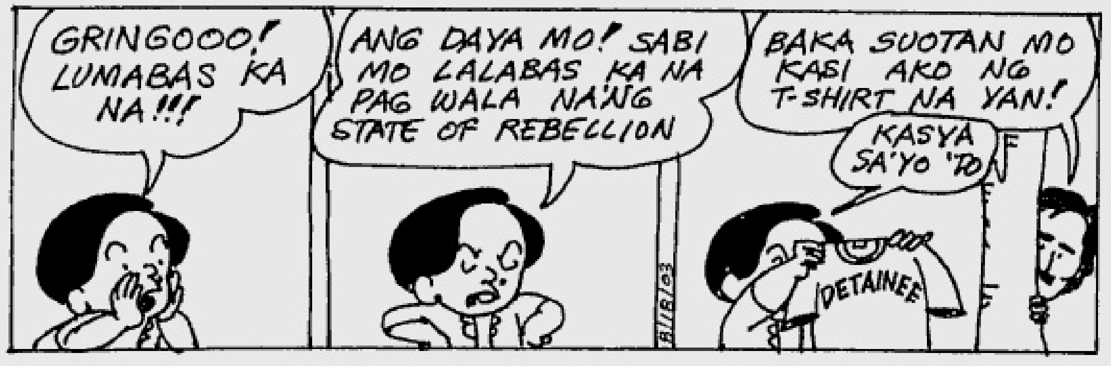
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW GOES THE ANIMATION BUSINESS?
NOT SO GOOD. I'M THINKING OF THROWING IN THE TOWEL.
I HAD NO IDEA PRODUCING A FAMILY-CLASSIC SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER TOOK SO MUCH WORK! STORYBOARDS! VOICES! RENDERING EVERY SINGLE FRAME! IF THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE $300 MILLION THESE DAYS, FORGET IT!
JASON, YOU'VE BEEN AT IT FOR A DAY.
A DAY AND A HALF. DON'T REMIND ME.
AH, GENERATION DOT-COM.
WHY, I REMEMBER WHEN A KID LIKE ME COULD MAKE A BILLION IN HIS SLEEP!

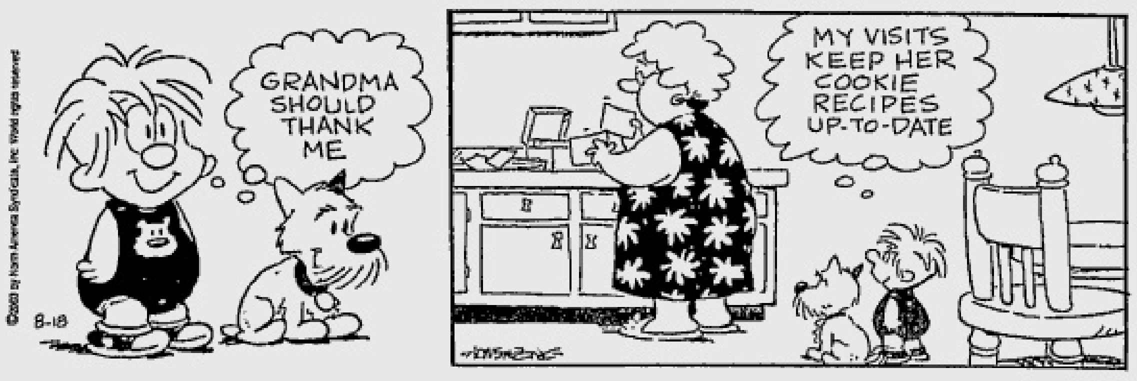
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRINGOOO! LUMABAS KA NA!!!
ANG DAYA MO! SABI MO LALABAS KA NA PAG WALA NA'NG STATE OF REBELLION
BAKA SUOTAN MO KASI AKO NG T-SHIRT NA YAN!
KASYA SA'YO 'TO
DETAINEE
8/18/03

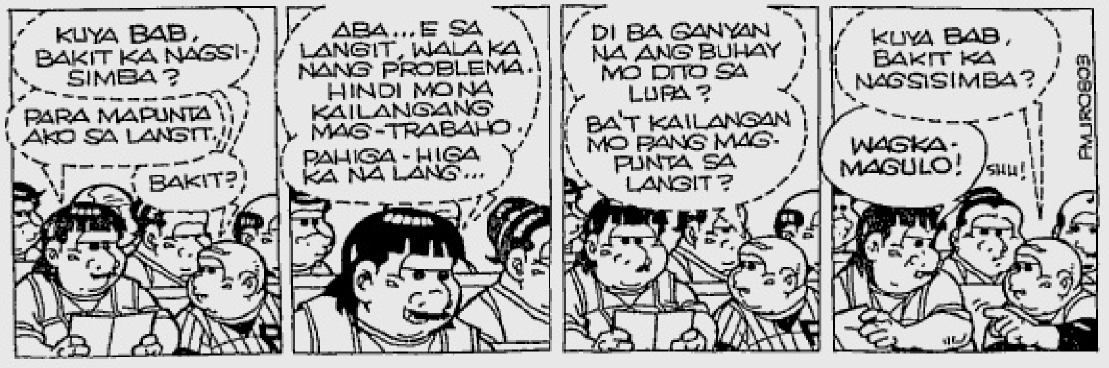
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GRANDMA SHOULD THANK ME
MY VISITS KEEP HER COOKIE RECIPES UP-TO-DATE
8-18

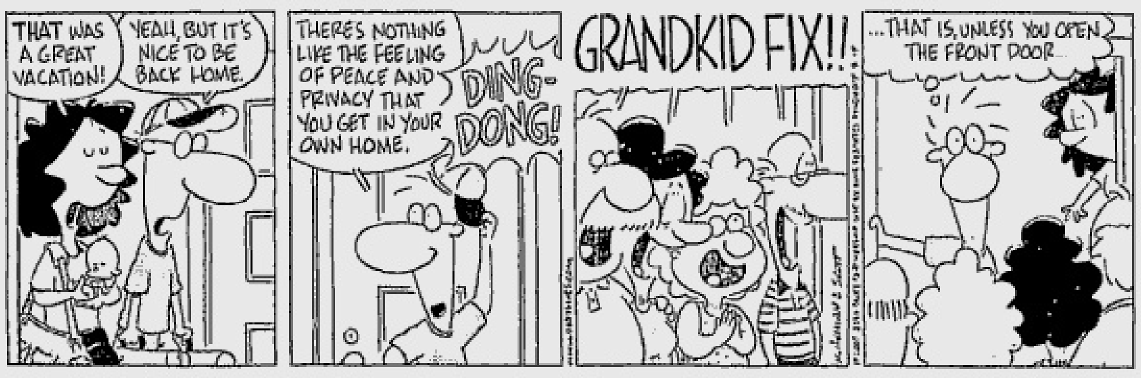
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUYA BAB, BAKIT KA NAGSI-SIMBA?
PARA MAPUNTA AKO SA LANGIT.
BAKIT?
ABA...E SA LANGIT, WALA KA NANG PROBLEMA. HINDI MO NA KAILANGANG MAG-TRABAHO.
PAHIGA-HIGA KA NA LANG...
DI BA GANYAN NA ANG BUHAY MO DITO SA LUPA?
BA'T KAILANGAN MO PANG MAG-PUNTA SA LANGIT?
KUYA BAB, BAKIT KA NAGSISIMBA?
WAGKA-MAGULO!
SHH!
PMJR0803

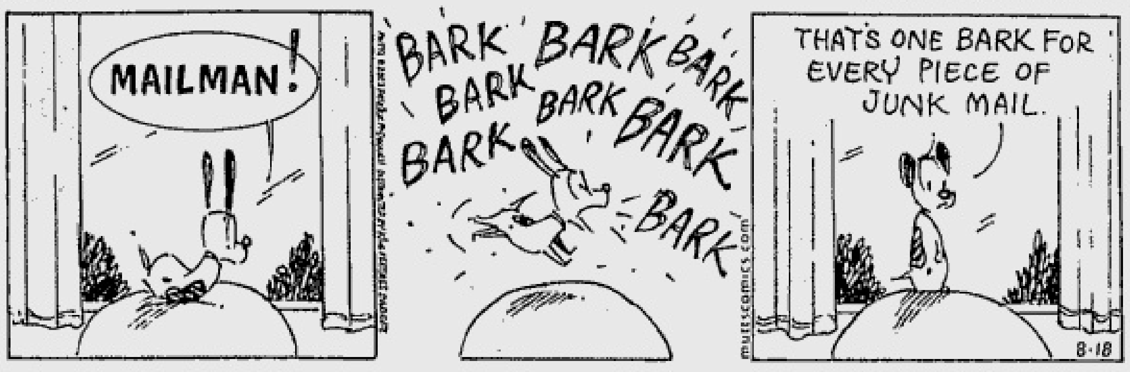
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT WAS A GREAT VACATION!
YEAH, BUT IT'S NICE TO BE BACK HOME.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE FEELING OF PEACE AND PRIVACY THAT YOU GET IN YOUR OWN HOME.
DING-DONG!
GRANDKID FIX!!
...THAT IS, UNLESS YOU OPEN THE FRONT DOOR...

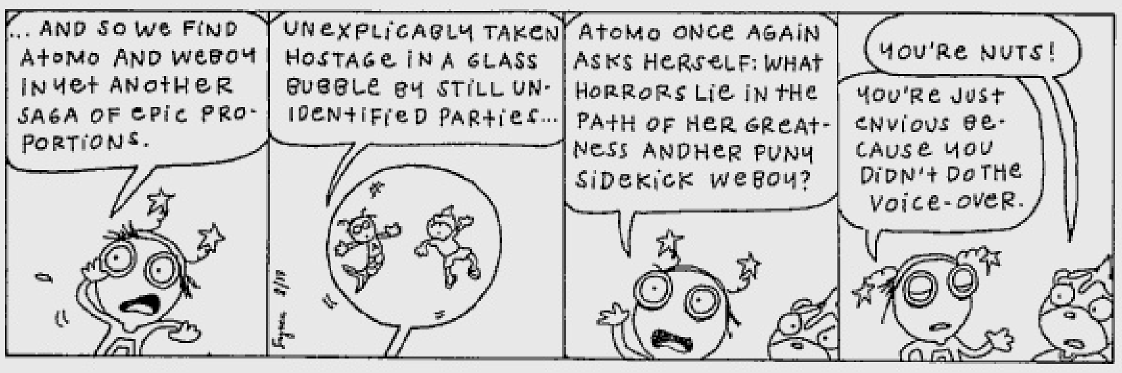
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MAILMAN!
BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK BARK
THAT'S ONE BARK FOR EVERY PIECE OF JUNK MAIL.
muttscomics.com
8-18

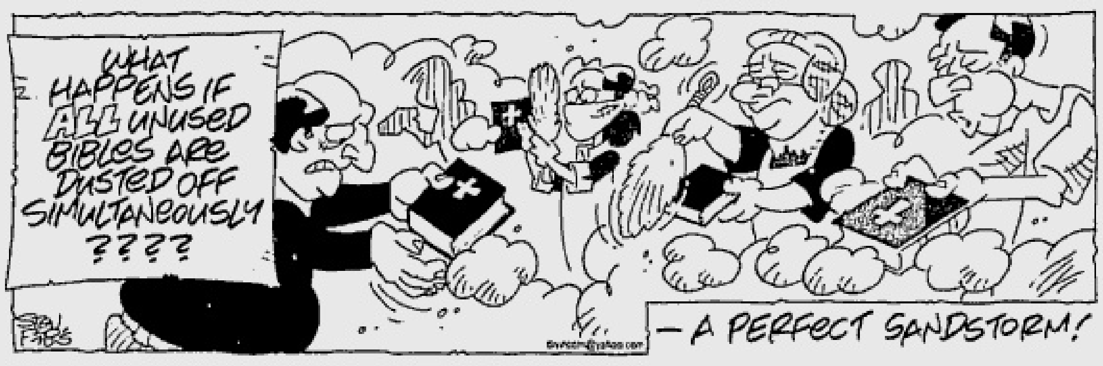
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


...AND SO WE FIND ATOMO AND WEBOY IN YET ANOTHER SAGA OF EPIC PROPORTIONS.
UNEXPLICABLY TAKEN HOSTAGE IN A GLASS BUBBLE BY STILL UNIDENTIFIED PARTIES...
ATOMO ONCE AGAIN ASKS HERSELF: WHAT HORRORS LIE IN THE PATH OF HER GREATNESS AND HER PUNY SIDEKICK WEBOY?
YOU'RE NUTS!
YOU'RE JUST ENVIOUS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO THE VOICE-OVER.

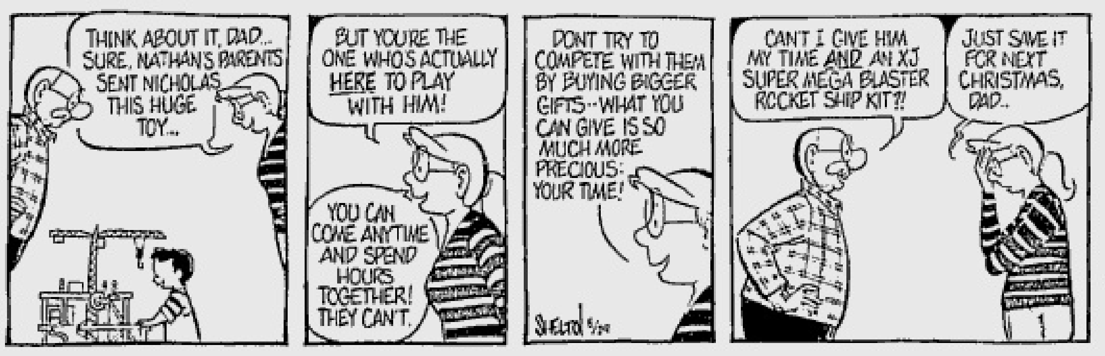
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHAT HAPPENS IF ALL UNUSED BIBLES ARE DUSTED OFF SIMULTANEOUSLY ????
—A PERFECT SANDSTORM!

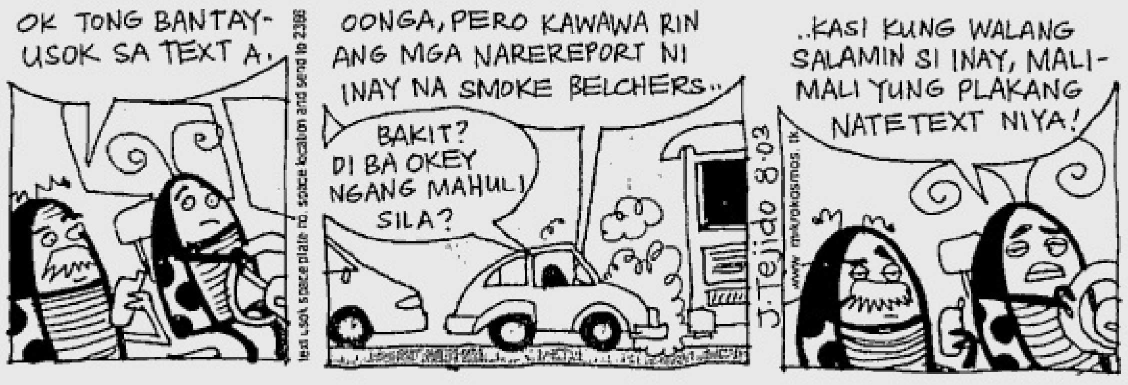
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THINK ABOUT IT, DAD.. SURE, NATHAN'S PARENTS SENT NICHOLAS THIS HUGE TOY...
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ACTUALLY HERE TO PLAY WITH HIM!
YOU CAN COME ANYTIME AND SPEND HOURS TOGETHER! THEY CAN'T.
DON'T TRY TO COMPETE WITH THEM BY BUYING BIGGER GIFTS--WHAT YOU CAN GIVE IS SO MUCH MORE PRECIOUS: YOUR TIME!
CAN'T I GIVE HIM MY TIME AND AN XJ SUPER MEGA BLASTER ROCKET SHIP KIT?!
JUST SAVE IT FOR NEXT CHRISTMAS, DAD..

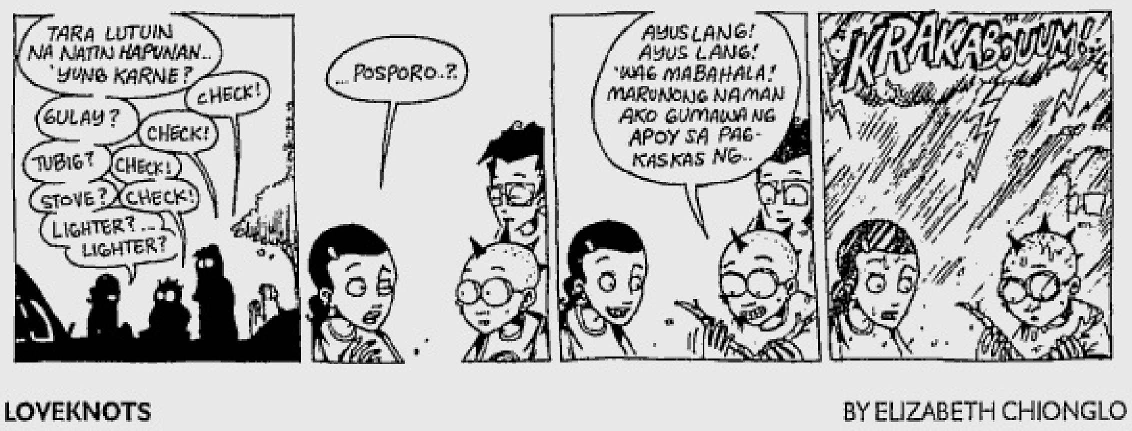
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OK TONG BANTAY-USOK SA TEXT A.
OONGA, PERO KAWAWA RIN ANG MGA NAREREPORT NI INAY NA SMOKE BELCHERS..
BAKIT? DI BA OKEY NGANG MAHULI SILA?
..KASI KUNG WALANG SALAMIN SI INAY, MALI-MALI YUNG PLAKANG NATETEXT NIYA!
J. Tejido 8-03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

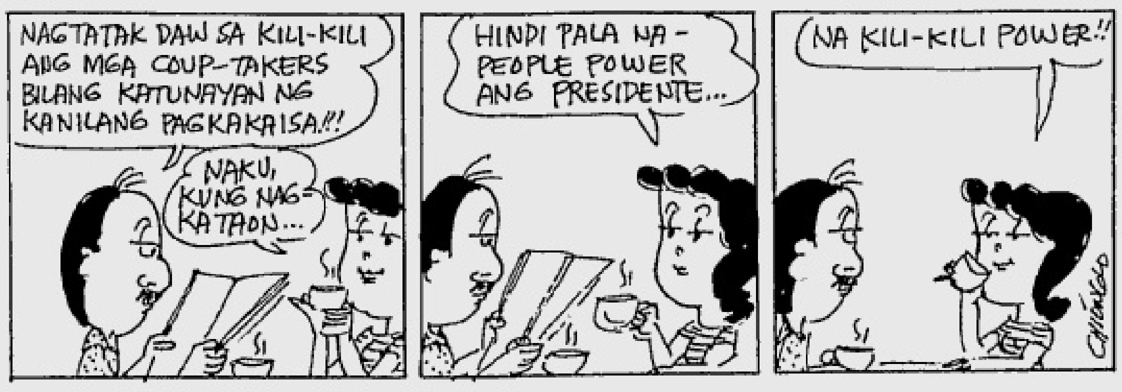
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TARA LUTUIN NA NATIN HAPUNAN.. 'YUNG KARNE?
CHECK!
GULAY?
CHECK!
TUBIG?
CHECK!
STOVE?
CHECK!
LIGHTER?... LIGHTER?
...POSPORO..?
AYUS LANG! AYUS LANG! 'WAG MABAHALA! MARUNONG NAMAN AKO GUMAWA NG APOY SA PAG-KASKAS NG..
KRAKABOUUM!

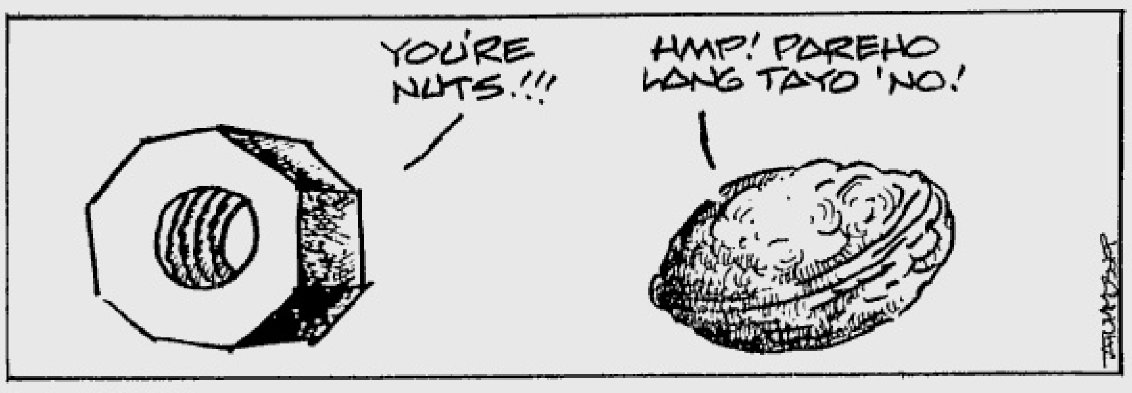
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAGTATAK DAW SA KILI-KILI ANG MGA COUP-TAKERS BILANG KATUNAYAN NG KANILANG PAGKAKAISA!!!
NAKU, KUNG NAGKATAON...
HINDI PALA NA-PEOPLE POWER ANG PRESIDENTE...
NA KILI-KILI POWER!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU'RE NUTS!!!
HMP! PAREHO LANG TAYO 'NO!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are adaptable and flexible, and these strengths make you a leader. You quickly see what can and cannot be achieved. Furthermore, you have the patience to wait and time your actions wisely. Most of all you want to experience life fully. The year ahead is a time of construction, building and hard work.
Birthdate of: Edward Norton, actor; Malcolm-Jamal Warner, actor; Robert Redford, actor/director.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to shop or to do business. Whatever you set in motion might benefit you for a long time in the future.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today, and it makes excellent aspects to the other planets. Take advantage of every social opportunity. Everybody wants to be in your presence now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because fair Venus is lined up with the Sun today, you are charming in all your communications with others! You're in the right place at the right time saying the right word to the right person.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): There is a good chance that you will buy something quite lovely for yourself or a loved one today. This is also an excellent day for business.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What a fabulous day! The three "best" planets are all in Leo right now, and two of them are lined up. (The Sun and Venus.) This puts you in a grand mood. You're in the groove, babes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This can be a pleasantly peaceful way to start your week. It's also an excellent time to deal with government or large institutions. Business is favored.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friends and groups can be particularly helpful today. Listen to hot tips with respect to business. Enjoy social exchanges with your buddies.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You look good in the eyes of others today. It's very easy for you to garner their respect. Romance with someone older (your boss?) or more established is possible now.

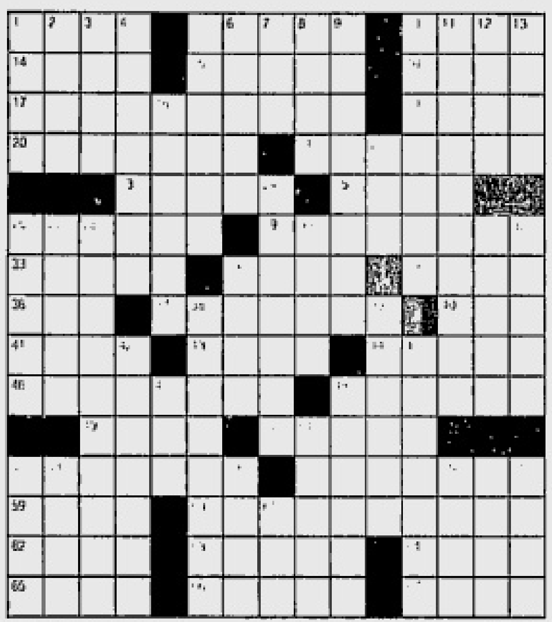
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a great day for dealing with publishing, the media, legal matters, higher education and anything to do with travel and foreign countries. Expect perks and success in these areas!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might be on the receiving end of some goodies or gifts today. Inheritances, extended credit, an approved loan or a welcomed favor are just some of the possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can charm the birds off the trees today! This is an excellent time to patch up shaky relationships and mend broken fences.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to start the week. Co-workers are supportive, and whatever you do seems to turn out quite smoothly. Enjoy!

DAILY CROSSWORD



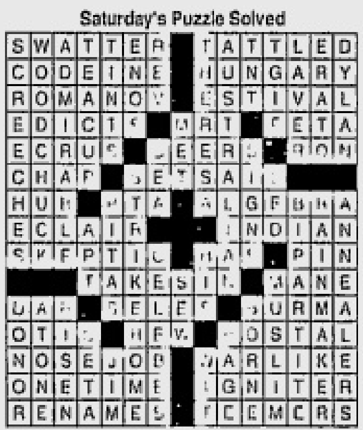
By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

8/18/03

ACROSS
1 Hirsch of "Taxi"
5 Used the VCR
10 "Fernando" singers
14 Farmland unit
15 University of Maine location
16 Slovak or Slovene
17 Poisonous spider
19 H.H. Munro
20 Hepburn film
21 Led astray
23 That is (to say): Lat.
25 Playful escapade
26 Encloses firmly
29 Rider
33 Ravel ballet, "La __"
34 Dynamic intro?
35 Vendor's goal
36 Old French coin
37 Lower in quality
40 Unrefined
41 Stat starter?
43 Light gas
44 Circumvent
46 Plato's teacher
48 Cooks in vapors
49 Deli offering
50 Conspicuous success
52 Majestic
55 Bowler or fedora makers
59 __-Chandon champagne
60 David Lynch thriller
62 Scottish Gaelic
63 First name in cosmetics
64 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
65 Dates
66 Sweeties
67 Assigned time

DOWN
1 Poking blows
2 USC rival
3 Faded and dull
4 Condemns openly
5 1964 Nobel-winning physicist
6 Opera songs
7 Pea container
8 Seth's son
9 Long, round pin
10 Guarantees
11 Patrol wagon
12 Make a pie
13 Enthusiastic
18 Joshed
22 German article
24 Midler film
26 Civil Rights martyr
27 Tijuana tough
28 Kind of dressing
30 Algerian port
31 Lookout's warning
32 Small salamanders
34 "The African Queen" screenwriter
38 Interred
39 Contents of a will
42 Electra's brother
45 Ma and Pa of comedy films
47 Orinoco tributary
48 Unpaid servants
51 Mirth
52 Iowa State city
53 Sported
54 Ultimatum ender
56 Devil's doings
57 Vegas rival
58 Proofer's word
61 Tony-winner Hagen

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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8/16/03

The novels of Azucena Grajo Uranza

By Elmer A. Ordoñez

REVIEW

IN 1982, taking a month off from self-exile abroad, I met A. G. Uranza and her family and learned that she was writing a novel about martial law—a subject which writers then had to approach with care unless one would like to risk censure or proscription. Even the historian Teodoro Agoncillo prudently avoided writing about the period while the dictator was still in power.

By early 1985, I saw the typescript of the novel with the arresting title "Bamboo in the Wind," but did not have a chance to read through it until after the Edsa uprising. The author asked my help in getting it published.

I realized then that the novel could not have been published during martial law, for it is a searing indictment of the Marcos regime. If it were published somehow before Edsa, perhaps under a pseudonym, then it would have been one of the few underground novels of that benighted period.

This bit about the circumstances of A. G.'s effort to write under repression reminds us of what Pilosopong Tasyo had said when asked by Ibarra, "Why do you write at all if you don't want to be read?"

Tasyo said that he was not writing for this generation but for the next generation to come, for if this one could read, they would burn his books; he was waiting for an enlightened generation to appreciate what he had written and say, "Not everyone slept during the night"—in A. G.'s context, a dark period, indeed, that could never really be fully written about, a period that continues to haunt us, for its victims have yet to find justice.

Déjà vu may now be a trite expression to describe the post-Edsa human-rights situation in successive regimes—four administrations to date that have not controlled the rampage of elements of the military, police and vigilantes on hapless civilians—but this is the sense that the reader gets in the sequel to "Bamboo in the Wind."

The title of the book, "Feast of the Innocents," recalls the slaughter of the infants by King Herod, just after the birth of Jesus Christ in a Bethlehem manger. The allusion is very apt.

NOVELIST Uranza (second from right) receives the first copy of her new novel from the Sorsogon Heritage Foundation headed by Eugenio Apostol (second from left), INQUIRER founder and an officer of the foundation. Looking on is National Artist Alejandro Roces. ROGER CARPIO

Nothing has changed

That nothing has changed in our society becomes a recurrent theme in "Feast." The expected reforms of the Edsa people's uprising have not materialized. Power was simply transferred to another set of oligarchs, and human rights violations continue.

The massacre of an entire village may be, to use a term from the formalists, the objective correlative to the decimation of the hopes of the people for a better life under a supposedly restored liberal democracy.

"Feast" is a social realist novel like "Bamboo," very much in the tradition of Rizal's novels and those of F. Sionil José. Our younger writers now seem to favor magic realism like their Latin American models.

"Feast of the Innocents" appears to be the coda to a set of four novels. The novel following "Bamboo" is "A Passing Season," a historical novel that traces the roots of at least two families, the Eduartes and the Herreras, whose members figured heroically in the 1896 Revolution and the Filipino-American War.

Dr. José Herrera, who was with Rizal abroad, died in the hands of American cavalrymen. In "Feast," an Herrera who fought in Bataan and survived the Death March and Capas stands up to the army colonel who ordered the burning of the village and the massacre of the inhabitants and blamed it on the rebels.

After the dressing down of the colonel by the Usaffe veteran, the former backs off, but not without threatening Rufo Herrera—a threat that hangs over the rest who would oppose the present dispensation.

Forthcoming novel

I understand that the last forthcoming novel of A. G. is "Women of Tammuz," which depicts characters and events during the American occupation up to the Pacific War. Thus the net effect of the four interconnected novels is a Philippine saga centering on a few elite families but by no means effacing the urban and peasant masses whose struggles to rise above their miserable lives are depicted in a naturalistic way, that is, in vivid detail.

Social history immediately comes to mind when reading "Feast," but this should not detract from the artistry of the novel. Using the cinematic method, shifting from scene to scene, the novel, as in "Bamboo," builds up in a progression d'effet with dramatic impact—the Aristotelian high point, the confrontation with the bête noir of society which Edsa has not extirpated.

The novel ends with a degree of pessimism and hope, for there is a realization among the activist characters—who were in their teens when martial law was declared (notably Fr. Andy de Chavez and Dr. Cielo Muñoz), and who are now more seasoned or honed in struggle—that, in fact, the struggle continues for the betterment of the lives of the poor and the oppressed.

The death of the unarmed Ligaya, a student who was raped by a soldier in "Bamboo" and who changed her name to Dolores when she joined the armed struggle, seems to suggest that the route that must be taken by Andy and Cielo would be peaceful but no less arduous.

As the author puts it: "The [activist] friends find support in each other, in the comfort and courage of their families, in their memories that give them dignity, and in their private past that shows them the integrity of the human heart."

Thus strengthened, the families face the approaching century, not with a closure, really, for the struggle to change society lies ahead.

The novels are solid testaments to the imaginative effort of A. G. Uranza (to quote James Joyce) to "forge in the smithy of [her] soul the uncreated conscience of our race."

Masaya ka ba sa iyong trabaho?

There's a career in here.

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5. Present your VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP ID at partner establishments for your freebies and discounts. In case you accidentally delete it, text PDI CARD to 2207 (Globe) or 4627 (Smart) to receive your ID again.

Inquirer Readers Club
Now, reading gets even more rewarding.

Standing ovation for 'sit-down' comedy and Takeshi Kitano

Two of Japan's cultural treasures—the popular theater show Rakugo and the films by acclaimed director Takeshi Kitano—are set to invade Manila

By Allison W. Lopez

ARMED with perhaps only a fan or a towel, the *rakugo-ka* will throw you off your seat. Interestingly, he does this while sitting on a cushion, using only his tongue, the sharpest of his weapons.

Japan's version of a stand-up comic (or, more properly, sit-down comic) will often leave you in stitches with his comical and animated stories.

This month, Rakugo, the Japanese form of theater comedy, will be playing in Manila for the first time, courtesy of the Japan Foundation Manila Office.

The foundation is also set to showcase five Asean films in the highly anticipated Eiga Sai Film Festival come September.

Movies from Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and an Asean collaborative film co-directed by noted Filipino director Mike de Leon will be shown in celebration of the Japan-Asean exchange year.

Seven contemporary works by Japan's prominent actor-director, Takeshi Kitano, will also be screened at the festival.

Recognition

On Rakugo, Japan Foundation's assistant director Hiroaki Uesugi says, "We found out that Filipinos are lovers of comedy. I went to Comfort Room [a stand-up comedy bar] myself and saw how they appreciated good comedy. So we thought, why not bring Rakugo here?"

After taking a backseat to drama forms Noh and Kabuki, Rakugo is finally getting the recognition it deserves. It played to appreciative audiences in Australia in 2001, and in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Australia again in 2002.

The show has crossed cultural borders by being performed nowadays in English, even if heavily Japanese-accented. A video clip of a performance in Malaysia showed that the *rakugo-ka* elicited raucous laughter from the audience despite the language difficulties.

The theater comedy uses the same stories and legends it has been using since it was established as a theater form in the 18th century.

But to bring it closer to contemporary audiences, some *rakugo-kas* make up modern stories, like a bone-tickling anecdote on Prime Minister Koizumi and former US President Bill Clinton, with Koizumi bungling his English.

The *rakugo-kas* make use of minimal props—usually a fan, a towel and a spare set—to tell his stories. But he employs a whole world of imagination to convey his tale.

The fan can be a pair of chopsticks or scissors. The towel can be a book, a set of bills or whatever the artist desires it to be.

Unexpected

For actor-director Takeshi Kitano, practicing comedy of a different sort was not as difficult.

He began as half of the comedic duo "The Two Beats" (with Kiyoshi Kaneko as the other half), sharing the stage with strippers, before plunging into an unexpected stint in directing.

The duo appealed to the younger set and eventually became known as "alternative comedians" with their risqué routines. They were later discovered and given a show at Japan's largest network, NHK.

Even after the act broke up, Takeshi still emerged as Japan's foremost media personality, acting in numerous TV shows and movies.

His first experiment with directing in 1989 came about by accident. Instead of just starring in the yakuza thriller "Violent Cop," he ended up helming it, with no directorial experience whatsoever, when director Kinji Fukasaku dropped out.

These days, he is primarily known for his visual flair in telling stories. His use of long, static shots as opposed to the common practice of getting different camera angles lend a chilling tranquility to "Violent Cop" and to subsequent films "Boiling Point" and "Sonatine."

"There is no movement in the camera," says Takeshi. "Violence is like comedy; it affects us suddenly without warning."

The 1993 "Sonatine," his best movie to date, is about a highly successful yakuza hitman, played by Takeshi himself. This reversed the pattern from his previous movies, which were about losers, to a movie about a successful yakuza.

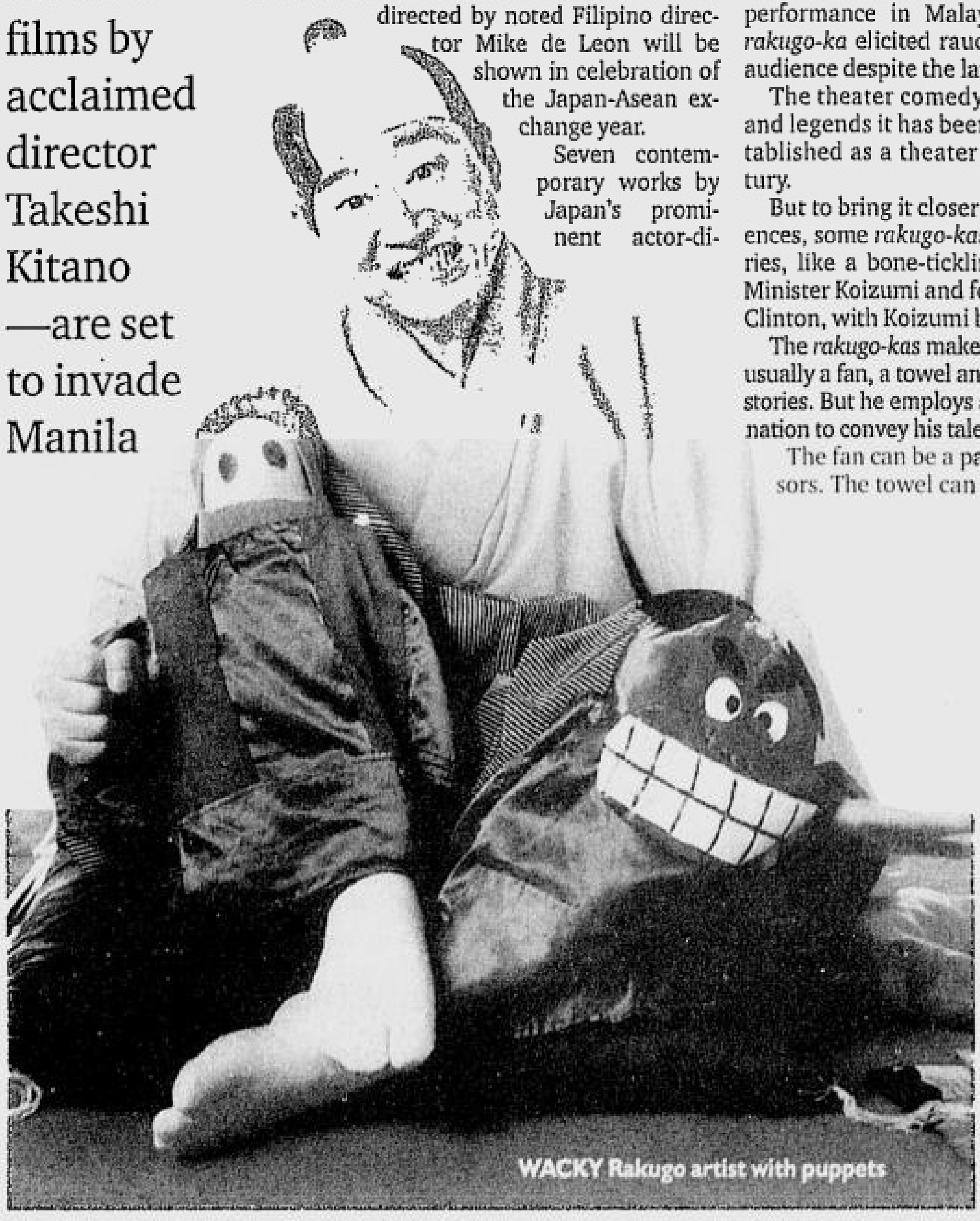
Another film, "Hana-bi," a drama depicting a lonely detective who is shattered by the death of his wife and the shooting of his partner, reaped awards at the Venice International Film Festival, the Bandila Baurista International Film Festival, Saô Paulo International Film Festival, and the European Academy's Screen International Film Festival.

Other Kitano films to be shown in the Eiga Sai festival include "A Scene at the Sea," the box-office hit "Kids Return" and "Kikujiro," one of the best-loved films at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival.

The films will be exhibited for free beginning Sept. 3 at The Podium, UP Film Center and CCP.

Admission to the Rakugo is free. Performances are scheduled on Aug. 27 in Cebu City and Aug. 30 at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino of the CCP. Call The Japan Foundation at 811-8155 to 58.

A CYCLE of rise and fall in Kitano's "Kids Return"



WACKY Rakugo artist with puppets

"BOILING Point." Offbeat humor and explosive violence

Cecile Licad says fame and money . . .

From page E1

which has been chosen CD of the Month by a music web magazine in London, continues to reap new acclaim from CD collectors.

David Lewis, assistant classical editor of the Michigan-based Media Guide magazine, says the new recording is a noteworthy marriage of player and repertoire.

"What Licad brings to the table," writes Lewis, "is her understanding of Chopin, who was Gottschalk's main influence, and words cannot convey how well this works—you simply have to hear it. Gottschalk's music is technically treacherous, and in many recorded performances that have gone before, pianists have taken a cautious approach, which renders the score clear but seems a little underpowered in terms of expressing an emotion. Licad's interpretation here emphasizes the expressiveness, nuance and excitement of this music in a manner that this reviewer has never heard before."

In another review, Jed Distler writes that Licad's interpretation brings to mind the piano greats of another generation.

Writes Distler: "Cecile Licad may have been groomed under Rudolf Serkin's exacting tutelage, but her visceral, exuberant Gottschalk playing evokes Vladimir Horowitz's diabolical art. It's not just speed and accuracy that Licad brings to the impossibly repeated noted in "Le banjo" or "Tremolo," but also impulsive dynamic surges and fustian drama. Her nimble, sky-written runs in "La jota Aragonesa" simply takes your breath away, as do her exquisitely shaped soft chords. We've got the best of Gottschalk, played to the hilt, at budget price. A sensational disc."

Cecile Licad will be heard in Muñoz City today, Aug. 18, at the Philippine Carabao Center Conference Hall. She will perform on Aug. 27 in Tuguegarao City. Her solo recital program at the Phil-Am Theater on Aug. 20 consists of Beethoven's Op. 81 ("Les Adieux"), Debussy's "Estampes," Schumann's Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22 and Chopin's 24 Preludes.

For inquiries on Licad's latest recording and provincial engagements, call 0918-7376901. Call the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at 705-1728 for her Aug. 20 solo program at the Philamlife Theater.

2nd batch of 'Dalitext' poetry winners named

VLADIMIR Gonzales and Frank Rivera are the *Text Makata ng Linggo* in the second week of the Dalitext poetry writing contest. Consolation winners are Libeto Vargas Jr., Ricardo Palaypay, Desiree Lustre, Joselito de los Reyes, Joel Malabanan, Karina Montesinos and again, Rivera.

There were more entries in the second week, with some coming from Quatar, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Ang punong mangga'y tinagpas
at sinilaban ang ugat;
bunga'y nalaglag, naagnas,
namula't naging mansanas.

V. Gonzales

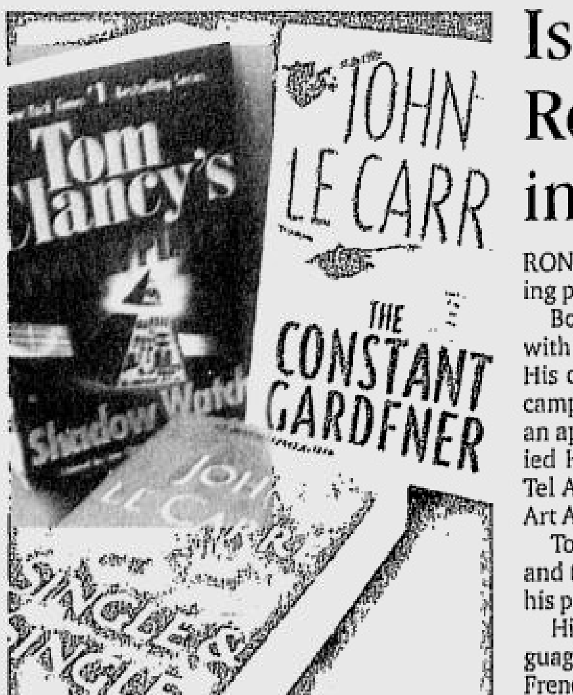
Kinakalambre sa lamig,
laging may ulang tikatik,
bayang parating may sakit,
iaangat ang pag-ibig.

F. Rivera

The *dalit* is a short poem in Filipino of four rhyming lines. Each line consists of eight syllables, expressing a complete thought.

Entries must express patriotism. They must be texted to 0920-8367541 or 0918-5311669. Entries must have the name of the author and sent not later than 5 p.m. every Friday.

Call 922-1830 or 527-2192.



BOOK SALE RETURNS

National Book Store's Cut Price Book Sale is back. Up to 70-percent discount on books is given from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15.

Every minimum book purchase worth P1,000 in a single receipt entitles a customer to a free Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

Israeli poet Ronny Someck in Manila

RONNY Someck is a prolific Israeli poet, having published eight volumes of poetry.

Born in Baghdad in 1951, Someck moved with his family to Israel a year and a half later. His childhood was spent in an Israeli transit camp for new immigrants until they moved to an apartment complex near Tel Aviv. He studied Hebrew literature and philosophy at the Tel Aviv University and sketching at the Avni Art Academy.

Today, Someck hosts a popular radio show and travels with a singer, who has set some of his poems to music.

His work has been translated into 22 languages including Arabic, Catalan, Albanian and French. His latest book, "Fire Stays in Red," is his first full-length English publication.

The Embassy of Israel is bringing Ronny Someck to Manila Aug. 18-20, so he can read his works and share views with teachers and students of creative writing from Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Santo Tomas (Aug. 19, 9 a.m., Faculty of Arts and Letters audio-visual room, under the auspices of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies) and University of the Philippines.

Visit the Embassy of Israel website at http://manila.mfa.gov.il.

Book on insomnia released

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "Sleepless in Manila: Funny Essays, etc., on Insomnia by Insomniacs," edited by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo.

In this delightful compendium on insomnia, 40 fine Filipino writers—mostly young, many of them award-winning, a few writing from Montreal, San Francisco, Paris and Singapore, and all insomniacs—describe their struggles with this affliction in hilarious essays, poems and stories.

They also divulge the countless remedies for sleep disorders that they have tried, or simply imagined, with wildly different results; and the things they do when all is lost and insomnia has won the night.

The rollicking humor is interspersed with carefully researched, indubitably useful, at times astounding nuggets of information like:

"10-15 percent of the world's population have severe chronic insomnia and an additional 25-30 percent have transient or occasional insomnia";

"In the past century, modern life has reduced nightly sleep time by more than 20 percent";

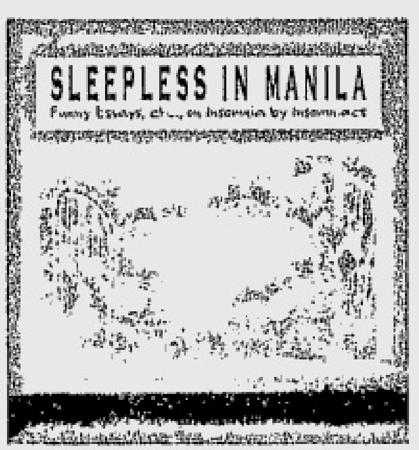
"You are more likely to get insomnia if you are female, over 60, unhealthy, depressed, divorced or widowed."

Among the contributors to this humorous book are Luis Joaquin M. Katigbak, Sarge Lacuesta, Clinton Palanca, Vicente Garcia Groyon, Cyan Abad-Jugo, Jose Wendell P. Capili, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, F.H. Batacan, Criselda Yabes, Eli Rueda Guieb III, Eileen Tabios, Paolo Manalo, Angelo Suarez, Yvette Tan, Frank Cimatu, Migs Villanueva, Susan Lara, Marne Kilates, Alfred A. Yuson and Gregorio C. Brillantes.

"Sleepless in Manila" is deliciously illustrated in a youthful style by comic book artist Robert Magnuson.

The book is available at National, PowerBooks and other leading book stores nationwide at P300 per copy.

Call 721-6431 or 721-3748. E-mail: tony@email.com.ph



SLEEPLESS IN MANILA
Funny Essays, etc., on Insomnia by Insomniacs
Edited by CRISTINA PANTOJA HIDALGO
Milflores Publishing, I

Anniversary sale at PowerBooks

IN CELEBRATION of their sixth anniversary this August, PowerBooks Specialty Store will be having a month-long powersale.

There's no excuse not to drop by because attractive discounts await all book lovers. Get books on sale up to 70 percent off. Every P2,500 purchase also entitles customers to a free PowerBooks wall clock.

Hurry and visit any Powerbooks branch and start your book shopping early. Call 844-4455 or visit www.powerbooks.com.ph.